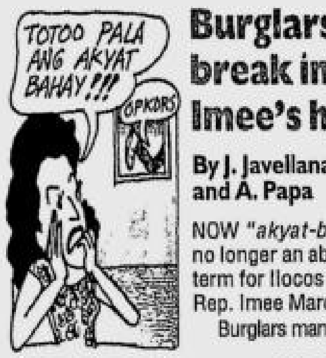
Save gas for US-Iraq war, Palace tells consumers

Story on PAGE A2


TOTOO PALA ANG AKYAT BAHAY!!!
OPKORS

Burglars break into Imee's house

By J. Javellana and A. Papa

NOW *"akyat-bahay"* is no longer an abstract term for Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

Burglars managed to

BURGLARS/ A15

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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Thursday, September 26, 2002 ★ 50 pages / 4 sections / vol. 17 / no. 272 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Malay judge in rape of Pinay condemned

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian women and rights groups yesterday expressed outrage over a judge's comments when he acquitted a policeman charged with raping a Filipino and Indonesian women in police cells.

Sessions court judge Mohamed Saman Ramli said the sexual acts, captured on closed circuit television, ap-

MALAY/ A16

SURFIN' GMA
President Macapagal-Arroyo rides the waves on a surfboard in Gen. Luna, Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte. The President was in Siargao in the Philippines' Pacific Coast to open the 7th International Surfing Cup.
EDWIN BACASMAS

PEA board goes on leave

GMA legal counsel takes self off probe

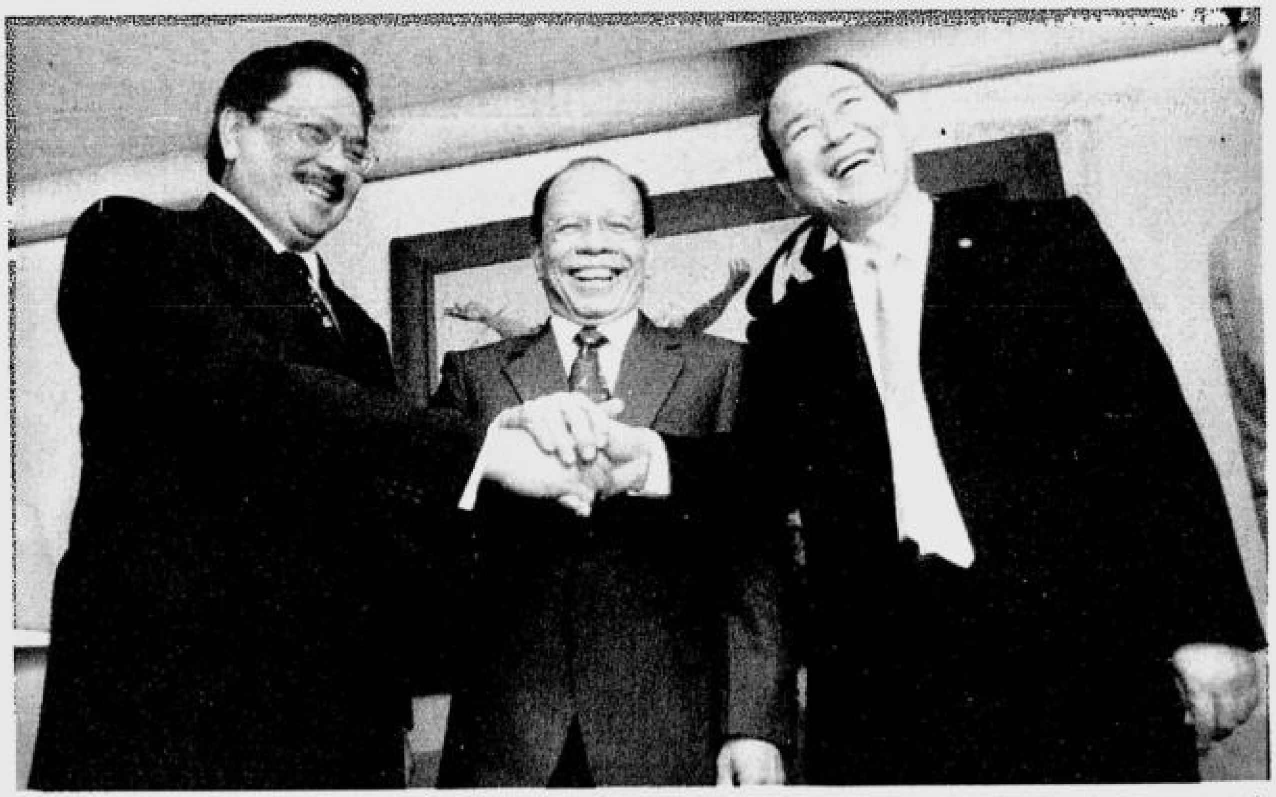
By Carlito Pablo and Juliet L. Javellana

A MEMBER of the board of the Public Estates Authority (PEA) offered to resign while the others were told by Malacañang to go on indefinite leave to pave the way for "an impartial investigation" of the alleged overpricing by P600 million of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB), a 5.1-km eight-lane asphalt road in the Manila Bay reclamation area.

PEA Director Joemari Gerochi, administrator of the National Food Authority during the Ramos administration, submitted his resignation letter after an aide of President Macapagal-Arroyo informed the PEA board on Tuesday of the "President's desire for them to go on leave." Gerochi's resignation offer, however, has not been accepted.

Other members of the PEA board were Chair Ernest Villareal, General Manager Benjamin Cariño, Rodolfo Tuazon, Angelito Villanueva, Martin Sanciego Jr.,

PEA/ A17



ALL'S well that ends well. Justice Secretary Hernani Perez and Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui shake hands at the Department of Foreign Affairs office in Manila. At the center is Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja who hosted the peace meeting. ERIK ARAZAS

Now, Perez can eat Wang's moon cakes

By Norman Bordadora

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez can now eat Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui's gift of moon cakes without having to swallow his pride.

Perez and Wang yesterday made peace with each other five days after the justice secretary accused the ambassador of trying to win the release of 122 detained Chinese fishermen without paying fines or entering guilty pleas, contrary to an earlier agreement. Perez said Wang yelled and slammed his fist on a table during a heated exchange. Perez then asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to declare Wang "persona non grata."

There were no apologies offered but Wang made an "expression of regret" which Perez accepted. "Now I can eat the moon cakes," Perez said of the boxes of moon cakes Wang and his staff brought Friday to the Department of Justice when they appealed for the release of the Chinese fishermen.

"The boxes might not be that pretty but the moon cakes inside are rather sweet," Wang said of the Chinese Embassy's gift to Perez.

It was acting Foreign Secretary Lauro Baja who mediated between the two officials.

"I can only say that there is a Chinese saying that goes 'When the heart is close, friendship grows.' So now we have be-

NOW/ A15

Mark Jimenez banned from leaving country

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday said he had directed the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold-departure order for Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, who is wanted for various offenses in the United States.

Speaking over radio station dzRH, Perez said he would not hesitate to send Jimenez, ousted President Joseph Estrada's former adviser and associate, to the notoriously violent Manila City Jail while his extradition trial was pending. "The law is the law. We couldn't do anything about that," Perez said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that Malacañang was "adopting" the position taken by the Department of Justice, and that there was no

MARK/ A18

House raring for showdown with high court

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE OFFICIAL LINE of the House leadership is that the chamber will not act until the Supreme Court issues a final decision on Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez's case.

But Senior Deputy Majority Leader Francis Escudero yesterday warned that the tribunal's ultimate refusal to reverse its ruling canceling Jimenez's bail would force a "showdown" with Congress.

Speaking in a phone interview, Majority

HOUSE/ A18

Mideast row good for RP tourism—Gordon

WHILE other Cabinet officials worry about the dislocation of thousands of overseas Filipino workers as a result of a US-led strike against Iraq, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon sees an upside to the current world crisis.

Gordon yesterday said tensions surrounding Iraq as well as last year's Sept. 11 attacks could actually boost travel in the region and help revive the Philippines' struggling tourism industry.

The attacks on the United

MIDEAST/ A16

Rare fish found in Iligan City

FISHERMAN Ronaldo Rivera waits for marine scientists to examine the strange fish he found on a shore near Iligan City. HENRY RIVERO

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ILIGAN CITY—An ocean sunfish (*Mola-mola*), considered the world's largest known bony fish, was found lying on the shore here by a fisherman on Tuesday.

The dead female fish, measuring more than two meters long and weighing about 800 kilos, was so far the biggest of its species ever found in the country.

RARE/ A16

German firm threatens to junk Naia 3 project

FRANKFURT—Germany's Fraport AG said Tuesday it would walk away from its investment in a new terminal of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport if the dispute with the Philippine government about the project's contract was not resolved by the end of the year.

Johannes Endler, chief financial officer of the German airport operator, said that talks with the Philippine government were proceeding, and that he was still hoping for a political solution.

"We will have it taken care of by the end of the year. Either it will be solved, or we will write it off," Endler said at a stock market conference here.

Fraport, which runs continental Europe's largest airport, owns 30 percent of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) that is building the Naia 3 passenger terminal.

But financial problems with its partners and flagging support from the administration of Presi-

GERMAN/ A16

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/26/02

Second FRONTPAGE

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Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Abad gets new post

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday announced the appointment of former National Food Authority administrator Anthony Abad as president of the Philippine International Trading Corp.

Abad will assume the post held by Arthur Yap, who has been named as the new NFA administrator.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the appointments will take effect immediately.

The PTIC is a government-owned trading company under the Department of Trade and Industry. It is engaged in the export and import of commodities, industrial products and consumer goods.

US-IRAQ WAR JITTERS

Save gas for looming crisis, Palace warns consumers

By Carlito Pablo
and Clarissa S. Batino

START conserving gasoline, Malacañang advised motorists yesterday, even as a Cabinet official currently in New York reiterated the government's support for the United States in its looming war with Iraq.

It's a good habit with or without a crisis," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in an interview over government radio station dzRB. "It would be a beneficial practice if we started planning our trips and formed car pools. It would also decongest our streets."

Bunye said, "We expect a tightness in the oil supply once war breaks out. Gasoline is an expensive commodity and if we're able to conserve it, it would be best for all."

From New York, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said: "We do support the US. We also support the US' concern with what is happening in Iraq and with the need to eliminate weapons of mass destruction."

Road show

Camacho is on the third and last leg of a series of economic briefings with foreign investors that started in Singapore before moving to London.

"I also think there is supposed to be a vote in the United Nations with regards to setting a deadline for (Iraq's) disarmament. I think we will support that, as far as I understand what our foreign policy is," Camacho said in a teleconference with reporters.

Bunye said one of the principal concerns of the newly created Middle East Preparedness Team will be the country's oil and fuel supply.

He said the government is planning to build up the country's oil reserves by securing stocks from neighboring Southeast Asian countries.

"That's one of the options that's being studied," Bunye said. "The MEPT is also looking at other alternatives."

Anticipating a crisis

"What we can advise now is for our countrymen to save on gasoline as we try to anticipate what would happen in a real crisis situation," he said.

Another major concern of the MEPT, which is headed by retired Armed Forces chief of staff Roy Cimatu, is the safety of some 1.4 million Filipino workers in the Middle East.

The MEPT is composed of representatives from the departments of national defense, labor, foreign affairs and energy, and members of the National Security Council.

The Cabinet and the NSC are scheduled to meet on Tuesday to discuss measures to be taken in view of probable war in the Middle East.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to issue directives to the MEPT after the meeting.

"The MEPT will plan for the worst-case scenario and the most extreme measures we would need to implement in case of war," Bunye said in the radio interview.

Worst-case scenario

Bunye declined to comment on the reported recommendation of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines that the government stop deploying Filipino workers to high-risk countries in the Middle East.

"The MEPT is supposed to assess the situation," Bunye said. "We'll take our cue from the MEPT."

Camacho said that in their briefings with foreign investors, he and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Rafael Buenaventura were asked how a war in the Middle East would affect the Philippines.

Camacho said he told them of plans to evacuate Filipinos from directly affected areas in the Middle East.

While there are only 112 Filipinos in Iraq, there are some 30,000 in Israel, a country that supports the US and is expected to be directly involved in any conflict. The bulk of the Filipino workers in the Middle East are in Saudi Arabia.

Camacho said the country's policy on the US-Iraq conflict should not be an issue with the Arab nations that employ a great number of the 8 million Filipino overseas workers.

"Ours is not inconsistent with the position taken by many countries, including many in the Middle East, and UN Secretary General Kofi Anan that Iraq disarm or have the weapons of mass destruction taken from them," he said.

Surge in remittances

Camacho also said a war in the Middle East should not bring down OFWs' remittances to their families as many Filipinos have moved on to higher paying jobs, as shown by the surge in remittances during the first half of the year.

As of June, dollar remittances totaled $4.143 billion, up 43.2 percent, compared to the first half of 2001. During the same period, the number of Filipinos who left the country for employment abroad rose by 4.1 percent.

BA[redacted]MORE

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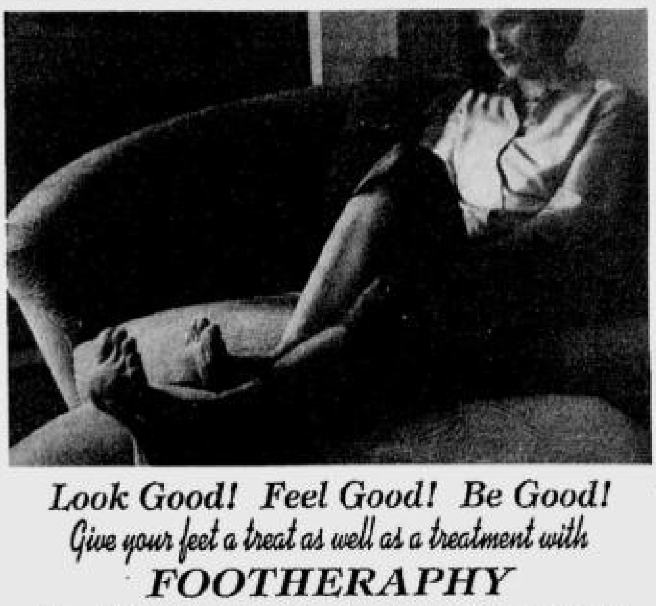

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ENRILE VS MERALCO

Paper trail belies Lopez claim—JPE

FORMER Senator Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday said that documents in his possession belie claims of the Lopez family that Meralco was forcibly taken from them by the Marcos government.

He added that the paper trail disprove the family's claim that documents and communications on the sale of the electric utility were signed under duress by Lopez patriarch Eugenio Lopez Sr.

Enrile pressed his attack on the ownership issues, which he exposed on Saturday in a media forum, by replying to a statement issued by Lopezes on the Benpres-Meralco Foundation transaction.

In an "open letter" to Oscar Lopez, a copy of which was sent to the INQUIRER the former senator said "he was amused by the reply of the Lopezes to his statements on the Benpres-Meralco Foundation transaction."

He said "while it may now appear as a running debate between the Harvard Law School and the Harvard Business School, it is really for the benefit of the public to know the truth behind the Meralco story."

Enrile told Lopez "he was entitled to his own version of the events and facts." However, he posed a series of questions which he said "the Lopezes have to inform the people about since these letters and documents were exchanges written by you (Oscar), members of your family and your associates."

ENRILE

Enrile asked Lopez to answer the following questions:

"1. Was your letter addressed to your 'Dearest Tatay and Nanay also forced on you by Marcos?

"2. Was the memorandum of your father, Eugenio Lopez Sr. to Mr. Alfredo Montelibano dated March 4, 1973, dictated and forced by Marcos on your father Eugenio Lopez Sr.?

"3. I have a letter of Eugenio Lopez Sr. to Mr. Emilio Abello dated Oct. 6, 1973. Was this letter also dictated and forced by Marcos on your father, Eugenio Lopez Sr.?

"4. I also have the letter of Mr. Alfredo Montelibano, Chairman of the Board of Meralco Securities Corporation to Alejandro Melchor, Chairman of the Board of Council, dated April 10, 1973. Was that letter also dictated and forced by Marcos on Mr. Montelibano?

"5. I also have the letter of Emilio Abello, dated Sept. 14, 1973 to Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Co. of Chicago, 231 So. La Salle St., Chicago, Illinois 660690.

Was this letter also invented, dictated and forced by Marcos on Mr. abello?

"6. I also have the memorandum of Mr. Alfredo Montelibano, Senior Vice President of Manila Electric, dated June 13, 1973 to Mr. Eugenio Lopez, President, "Re Manila Electric Co."

Enrile said he "hoped the Lopezes would not begrudge him for laying all these out in the open for the public to make their own judgement—in the interest of truth."

DEFENDER IN THE SENATE

Pimentel takes up cudgels for Lopezes

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Aquilino Pimentel yesterday said that the Lopez family sold the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) to the government under duress during martial law.

Pimentel rejected the claim of former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile that the Lopezes voluntarily gave up ownership of Meralco.

Enrile was the defense secretary and martial law administrator of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

"The Lopezes have enough defenders in the Senate," he said. "But as a human rights lawyer, I must say that Manong Johnny Enrile's basic assumption that the Lopezes sold Meralco and other assets willingly to Marcos simply doesn't hold water," he added.

Held by the neck

According to the senator, the late Eugenio Lopez Sr., the family patriarch, sealed the Meralco deal with Marcos in the hope of securing the release of his son, Eugenio Lopez Jr. from military detention.

"It was martial law and Marcos was holding the Lopez patriarch by the neck," Pimentel stressed.

"No matter what fault may be attributed to the Lopezes, nobody can say that the Meralco and other deals between them and Marcos were done freely and voluntarily," he added.

Meanwhile, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta urged Malacañang to junk the proposal of Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho to sell the government's stake in Meralco because of a bearish stock market.

But Energy Secretary Vincent Perez had maintained that the government should keep the state's assets at the power utility firm intact to protect public interest.

Oreta said the conflicting positions of these two Cabinet officials on such a crucial matter indicated a rift within President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic "dream team" with regard to the government's privatization plan for Meralco.

PIMENTEL

LOPEZ

According to her, the President should instruct government representatives in Meralco to take a more active role in Meralco's affairs so that the power utility company can expand and improve its services to the people.

More active say

Oreta made the suggestion after Perez said in a Senate hearing on the issue that the government should have significant stake in a corporation like Meralco which was inbued with public interest.

Perez said that government representatives in Meralco should have a more "active say" in the power firm.

Oreta said selling the government's stake in Meralco could not have come at a worse time, when Meralco's shares are not performing too well in the bearish stock market.

She said that instead of relinquishing its hold on Meralco, the government should be more actively involved in Meralco's affairs with the end in view of pulling down electricity rates.

US to start Atong Ang extradition next year

ANG

THE US government will begin extradition proceedings next year against Charlie "Atong" Ang, a Filipino businessman accused of helping the deposed President Joseph Estrada embezzle state funds, court sources said yesterday.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has advised the justice department that extradition proceedings involving Ang are to start on March 21 next year, the sources said.

The Philippines has sought custody of Ang to stand trial alongside Estrada.

The two are the main defendants in the plunder charge filed by the government shortly after a bloodless popular revolt ended Estrada's 30-month rule last year.

Both Ang and Estrada, who is detained at the Veterans hospital here, theoretically face the death penalty if found guilty.

Prosecutors charge that Ang helped Estrada set up a protection racket for, "jueteng."

The charge sheet also accuses him of helping steal about P130 million worth of tobacco taxes that they allege ended in Estrada's hands.

The judicial sources here said the FBI has asked the justice department here to share with the FBI a translated version of the entire testimony of the star witness, former Ilocos Norte Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Ang was arrested in November and is detained near Las Vegas, where the extradition case will be heard. *AFP*

Foreign prostitutes to be barred entry

AUTHORITIES yesterday announced a crackdown on foreign prostitutes, saying stricter immigration rules would be put in place to prevent their entry.

Immigration commissioner Andrea Domingo said there had been numerous reports that foreign women had entered the country last month and had gone to Cebu City to work as prostitutes.

Immigration agents there are on the lookout for alleged "Brazilian, Russian and Korean women engaged in the flesh trade," the immigration bureau said in a statement.

Domingo said three Russian women were denied entry last week after they could not satisfactorily explain why they were coming to the Philippines. *AFP*

Australia cracks down on illegal workers

CANBERRA—Australia has detained 80 illegal workers in the past week in a crackdown on building sites around Sydney, authorities said on Wednesday.

The Immigration Department said a series of raids targetting the construction industry netted illegal workers from South Korea, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Fiji, the Ukraine and Ireland.

"The series of operations were undertaken following a number of reports from numerous sources about illegal workers in the construction industry," a department spokesman said in a statement.

The department said immigration officers made regular visits to workplaces across Australia, such as restaurants, farms, shops, office, factories and brothels, in a bid to find people in the country illegally or working in breach of visas.

In the year ending June 30, 2002, the department located 17,307 people working illegally, a jump on 14,238 detected the previous year.

The current crackdown on the building industry was part of the government's ongoing battle to stem illegal immigration.

Australia's conservative government has faced a barrage of international criticism for its policies of detaining all illegal immigrants in guarded camps while their cases are handled and for sealing its borders to asylum seekers arriving by boat.

The crackdown in Australia comes on the heels of a crackdown on illegal immigrants elsewhere, including Malaysia, which expelled thousands of Filipinos and Indonesians starting last August. *Reuters*

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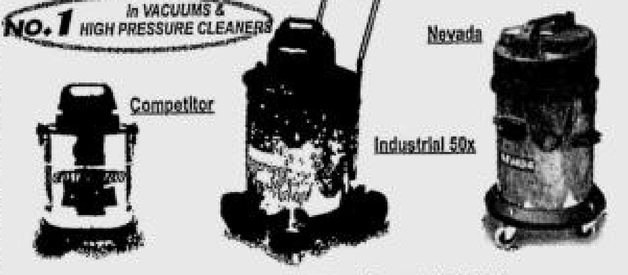

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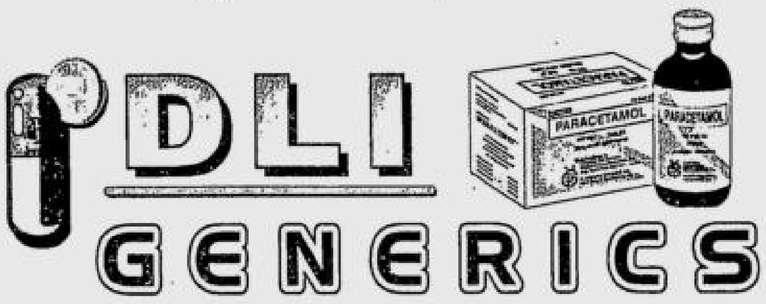

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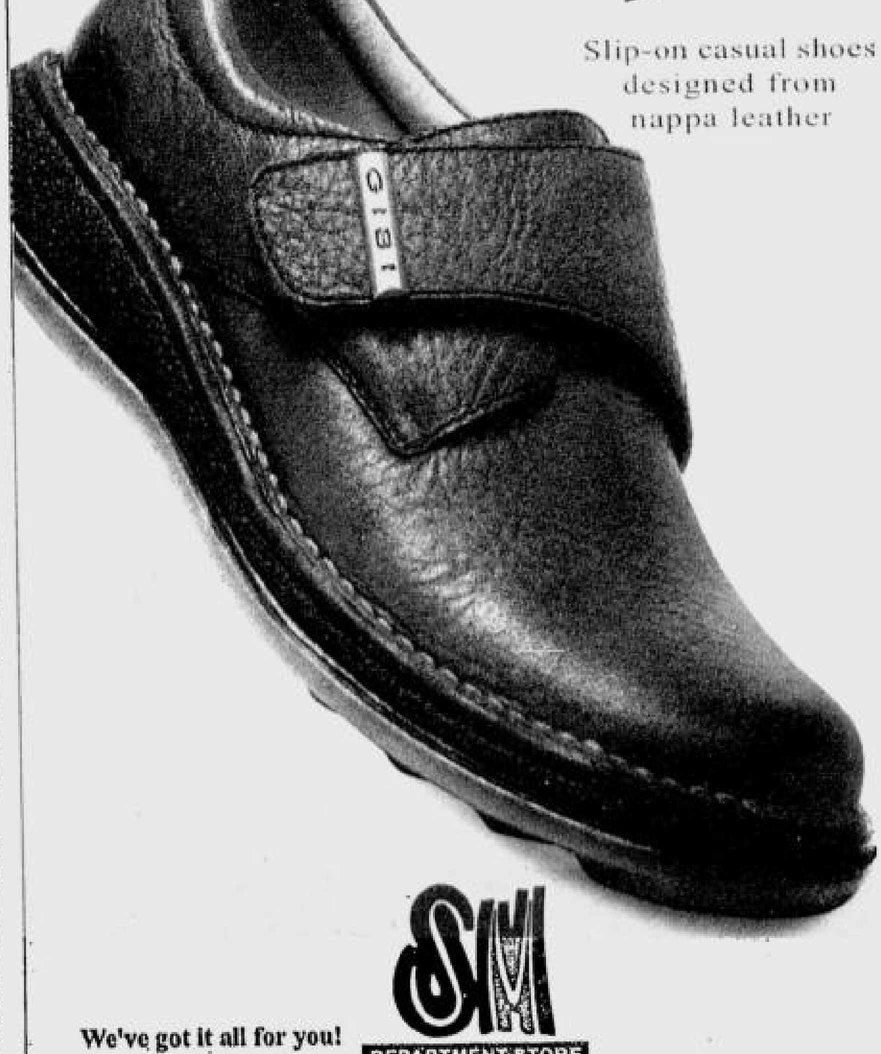

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200 raids make Reds terrorists–AFP

By Martin P. Marfil

THE COMMUNIST New People's Army has initiated 200 offensives in the first nine months of the year, figures released by Camp Aguinaldo yesterday showed.

But despite this, Camp Aguinaldo said that the number of rebels declined from 11,000 last year to about 10,000 this year.

The figures were released by Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, chief of the AFP's public information office, in the wake of the recent NPA raid on the Maco municipal police station in Compostela Valley.

He said the raids followed Jose Ma. Sison's directive to step up NPA offensives, which resulted in the rise of civilian casualties for this year, 125 persons most of whom were wounded.

"This act justifies the labelling of the CPP-NPA as a foreign terrorist organization," Servando said.

"As of September this year, more than 200 terroristic activities have affected about 125 civilians who have either been killed or injured," he added.

For the first six months of the year, he said, 125 rebels were killed, 300 surrendered and 210 were captured.

About 450 firearms were recovered from the rebels in 230 government-initiated offensives.

As of September, Servando said that their estimate of rebel strength stood at 10,300, down from 11,900 last year.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1597, Series of 2002

Hostage mayor to be quizzed on NPA raid

By TJ Burgonio

THE MAYOR of Maco town in Compostela Valley, who was reportedly used by communist rebels to gain entry into the municipal police station on Tuesday, will be grilled for his possible links to the gunmen.

Mayor Miller Alaba was reportedly taken hostage by 40 New People's Army members who barged into the station, disarmed the policemen and took 35 assorted firearms and two radio transceiver sets.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, ordered the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to "look into all possible angles in the disarming incident, including the possible direct participation of the mayor himself."

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, told reporters Ebdane also ordered the relief of the Maco police chief and 31 of his men and the tightening of security at the police station. Those relieved were replaced by 40 members of the Provincial Mobile Group.

In the wake of the incident, Region XI police director Senior Supt. Isidro Lapena formed Task Force Maco—composed of police and military units—to pursue the communist rebels, Bataoil said.

Alaba then reportedly introduced the group's leader, Eduardo Genelsa, alias Kumander Lando, as an Army lieutenant to the station commander. Shortly afterward, the rebels disarmed the policemen on duty and forcibly opened their supply room.

The guerrillas fled after taking the firearms and radios and leaving the mayor behind.

According to Bataoil, the rebels had met with the mayor in another barangay and convinced him to accompany them to the police station on board government vehicles. Upon reaching a police checkpoint, the convoy of vehicles was stopped but was allowed to pass after policemen saw the mayor in one of the cars.

"We're validating allegations that he (the mayor) tried to dissuade them from going to the police station," Bataoil said.

Associated Press quoted Lapena as saying Alaba was inspecting projects in the village of Mapaang earlier Tuesday when the rebels accosted him.

The guerrillas, in military camouflage uniforms, then forced the mayor to accompany them to the police station in his vehicle. Other rebels trailed the mayor's vehicle in another van.

At the police station, the mayor introduced the group's leader as an army lieutenant to the station commander.

The rebels then held the policemen at gunpoint before carting away their firearms and ransacking the station's lockers and stockroom.

The mayor was released unharmed and the rebels fled toward a nearby mountain, police said. *With an AP report*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 26, 2002
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ecl 1:2-11
Gospel: Lk 9:7-9

King Herod heard of all this and did not know what to think, for people said, "This is John, raised from the dead." Others believed that Elijah or one of the ancient prophets had come back to life. As for Herod, he said, "I had John beheaded; who is this man about whom I hear such wonders?" And he was anxious to see him.

Commentary

That word about Jesus reached the Tetrarch Herod meant that his proclamation of God's reign was making a dent on his contemporaries. It could not be confined anymore to the common masses of people. It reached even the ears of the superstitious ruler of Galilee. He thought that Jesus was the resurrected John the Baptist, whom he beheaded and who had proclaimed the same message of God's reign. He wanted to see him, not to hear his message but simply to satisfy his superstitious curiosity. Sometimes we must admit how superstitious we can be in our pious desires!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW/COMMERCIAL LAW (INSURANCE)—Rescission of contract in case of concealment—Under Section 27 of the Insurance Code, "a concealment entitles the injured part to rescind a contract of insurance." The right to rescind should be exercised previous to the commencement of an action on the contract. In this case, no rescission was made. Besides, the cancellation of health care agreements as in insurance policies require the concurrence of the following conditions: (1) Prior notice of cancellation to insured; (2) Notice must be based on the occurrence after effective fate of the policy of one or more of the grounds mentioned; (3) Must be in writing, mailed or delivered to the insured at the address shown in the policy; (4) Must state the grounds relied upon provided in Section 64 of the Insurance Code and upon request of insured, to furnish facts on which cancellation is based. [Citation omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, Philamcare Health Systems, Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 125678, March 18, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

STANDARD BEARER: FPJ OR PING

Erap party revs up for 2004

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE PUWERSA ng Masang Pilipino, the party of deposed President Joseph Estrada, is reorganizing in preparation for the 2004 elections, its national president, Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, said yesterday.

Dilangalen said the opposition party is reviving its chapters and may be fully reorganized by yearend. He said they continue to eye either actor Fernando Poe Jr. or Sen. Panfilo Lacson as their presidential standard bearer in 2004.

"It's a toss-up between FPJ and Ping," Dilangalen said in a phone interview. "They're both qualified, have names and have the x-factor."

He said informal surveys within the party showed that Poe, a close friend of Estrada's, is favored this early to be the presidential candidate, especially in Mindanao.

He denied the opposition party had anything to do with the signature campaign now being waged to convince Poe to run for president. He said Poe's supporters were probably behind the signature drive.

Another opposition congressman said some members of the House minority had met with Lacson and they found him to be "okay."

Scared of FPJ

Dilangalen said the Macapagal administration was apparently "scared" of a Poe candidacy since Presidential Political Adviser Joey Rufino invited Poe to run for senator instead.

Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said Rufino's offer to Poe was an "unmistakable sign of panic by Ms Macapagal's political advisers and a subtle effort to dissuade the popular movie actor from running against their bet."

For Remulla, a Cavite representative, Lacson is "powerful presidential material for the opposition," predicting it would be a Lacson-Poe teamup in 2004, "following the principle of winnability and performance."

In a statement, Remulla said Lacson was "better prepared in terms of machinery for a national campaign," as he noted that despite the "avalanche of black propaganda" against the former national police chief, he was still able to win as senator in 2001.

Nothing wrong with 'Velarde' withdrawals —Ombudsman

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THERE was nothing irregular about the withdrawals made from the "Jose Velarde" account at the Equitable PCI Bank because these were done before the Sandiganbayan ordered a freeze on the account believed to contain ill-gotten assets of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

This was the assertion yesterday of acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio in reaction to recent reports the Velarde account which at its height allegedly held P3.2 billion was down to only P2,770.69 today.

"There was no prohibition against withdrawals from the court, even before the start of (Estrada's) impeachment trial (at the Senate in late 2000)," Gervacio told reporters at the resumption of Estrada's plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan yesterday.

'Nothing irregular'

"So far, we have seen nothing irregular," Gervacio said. "The persons who withdrew the money have no liability as long as there was no prohibition."

Gervacio said it was only last Sept. 8 that the Sandiganbayan ordered a freeze on the bank accounts registered under the name "Jose Velarde," Estrada's alleged alias, and Yolanda Ricaforte, the ousted president's reported accountant. The six Ricaforte accounts reportedly still hold P12.4 million.

Gervacio said the prosecution has been able to track the funds from the Velarde account up to the second and third chains of transfer.

"Unfortunately, we stopped because the Ombudsman can't look into the bank records of depositors under the Bank Secrecy Law and the bank itself refused to open the accounts," Gervacio said.

From P3.2 billion, as estimated by prosecutors in the Estrada impeachment trial, the Velarde account has a balance of only P2,770.69, according to a certification presented by Equitable PCI Bank to the Sandiganbayan on Monday.

Gerardo Banzon, Equitable legal advisory manager, informed the anti-graft court that the bank has placed on hold the Velarde account at its Juan Luna-Binondo branch.

The prosecution has alleged the Velarde account came from illegal gambling kickbacks, embezzled state funds and profits derived from insider trading at the stock exchange.

The defense claims the former President had merely acted as a representative of the real Jose Velarde when he signed at least five bank documents bearing that name.

Estrada's friend, businessman Jaime Dichaves, had claimed he owned the Velarde account. Dichaves is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the Sandiganbayan special division hearing the Estrada plunder trial.

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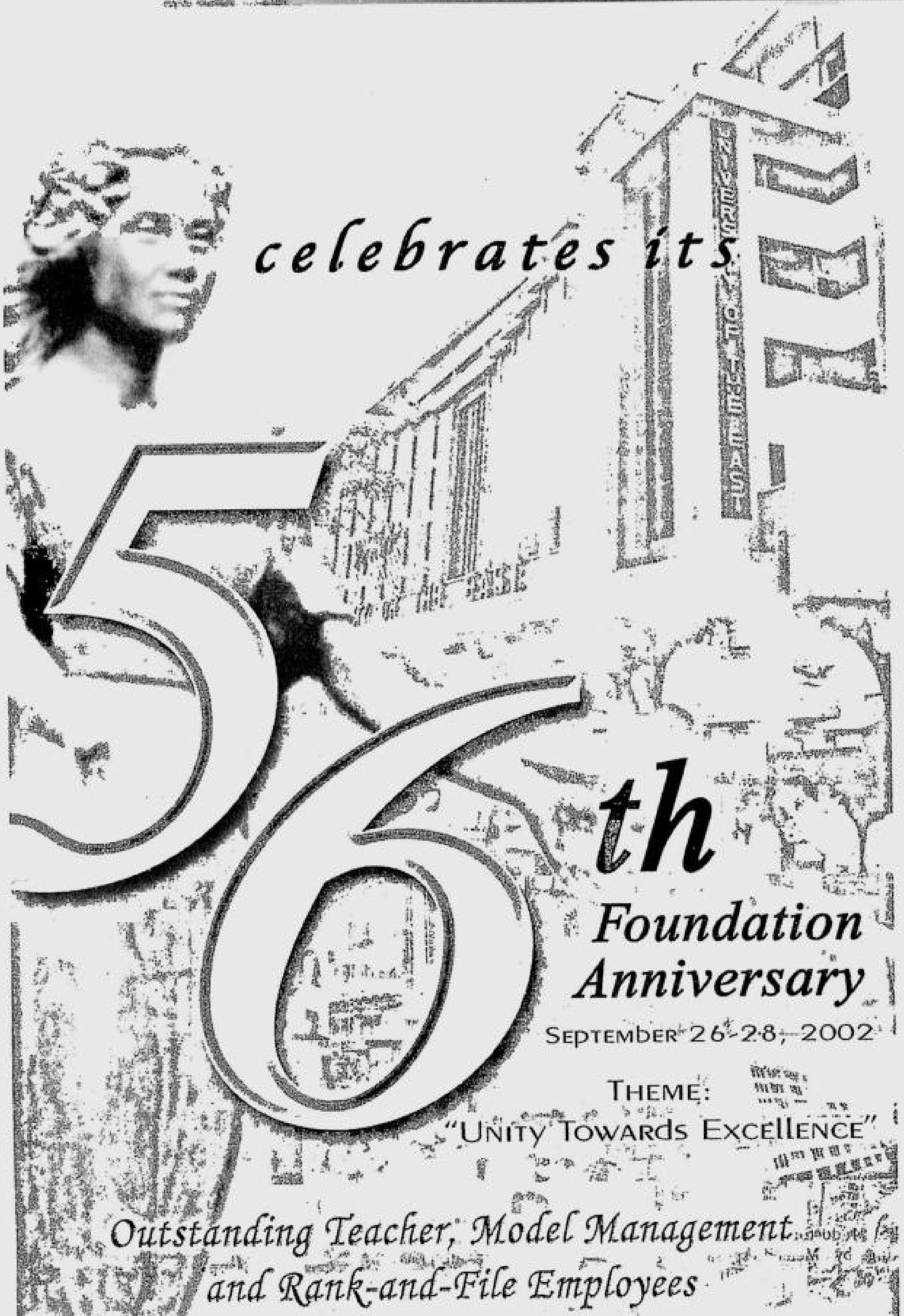

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Program and Schedule of Activities

Sept. 26/Thursday (all at UE Manila)

- 8 a.m. > Parade of the UE community — to be led by the UE Band and participated by Administration Officials, Alumni Jubilarian Representatives, Employees, Faculty, student council presidents and officers and Mr. & Ms. UE Earth.
- 9 a.m. > Opening of Students' Booths, CAS Manila Patio, Education and CCSS lobbies
- 9:30 a.m. > Thanksgiving Mass, Conference Hall
- 11 a.m. > Opening of Art Exhibit, Dalupan Lobby
- 11:30 a.m. > Cocktails, Rizal Hall
- 3 p.m. > UE Dance Troupe Presents "Sayawin," UE Theater
- 4 p.m. > "A September to Remember": Presentations by the ESLS, the Colleges' students and faculty, and employees, SFC Quadrangle

Sept. 27/Friday

- 8 a.m. > *Pista ng UE* (Parade of student organizations led by the UE Band), UE Caloocan Grounds
- 9 a.m. > *Palarong Pilipino* (with announcement of winners and awarding of prizes), Caloocan Quadrangle
- 10:30 a.m. > University Convocation, with Sen. Loren Legarda as Guest Speaker, Caloocan Gym
- 12 p.m. > *Salu-Salo*
- 3 p.m. > Service Awards, Conference Hall

Sept. 28/Saturday

- 4 p.m. > Alumni Homecoming, Dalupan Lobby

UE Service Awardees 2002

45 years

Ma. Lourdes C. Sanchez, Textbooks Evaluation and Publishing Office (TEPO).

40 years

Danilo R. Alejandrino, Comptroller's Office; **Cristina F. del Rosario**, Elementary Laboratory School (ELS); **Teresita D. Victoria**, Dept. of Libraries-Caloocan.

35 years

Feliciano C. Albaran, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Caloocan; **Emilie P. Apurillo**, Physical Education (PE); **Josefina N. Cruz**, Libraries Dept.; **Rebecca D. Dizon**, Dept. of Registration and Records Management (DRRM); **Mario L. Landicho**, Environmental Services Office (ESO) Manila; **Norma T. Padua**, Disbursing Office; **Ana Maria R. Peralta**, CAS Mla.; **Ramon Z. Romero**, Security Office.

30 years

Danilo V. Antonio (Posthumous), DRRM; **Rose Y. Bisquera**, CBA Mla.; **Asuncion R. Gonzales**, Graduate School; **Leticia I. Lagco**, CAS Mla Lab.; **Eligio R. Macalinao Jr.**, Comptroller's Ofc; **Julio M. Mangali** and **Romulo S. Manuel**, Security Ofc; **Cornelio L. Marcelino**, ESO Mla.; **Teresita R. Mercene**, Department of Human Resources and Development (DHRD); **Lazaro F. Trinidad**, Audio-Visual Dept.; **Luzvida L. Tuazon**, CBA Mla.; **Angelina A. Villanueva**, College of Law.

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Orlando A. Abat and **Leonardo J. Abrilla**, ESO Mla.; **Norma V. Acabado**, CAS Mla. Lab.; **Julio S. Agco**, ESO Mla.; **Florita S. Aquino**, CAS Mla.; **Veronica G. Bermudo**, PE; **Dolora E. Bugtong**, CBA Caloocan; **Silvestre L. Burce**, ESO Mla.; **Edgardo V. Cabarios**, Engg. Cal.; **Romeo L. Caburian**, Audio-Visual; **Virgilio M. Camba**, ESO Cal.; **Alberto A. Capito**, ESO Mla.; **Lolita M. Carpina**, University Relations Office (URO); **Antonio C. Casaul**; ESO Mla.; **Jose C. Cister**, Security Ofc.; **Jose T. Cortez**, Engg. Cal.; **Oscar D. Cortez** and **Francisco B. Da-Ang**, ESO Mla.; **Maximino P. Dayandante**, Engg. Mla.; **Teresita E. Erestain**, CAS Cal.; **Teodora P. Esguerra**, CAS Cal. Lab; **Alfredo F. Fernandez**, ESO Mla.; **Edita B. Flores**, Dentistry; **Erlinda M. Florido**, CAS Mla.; **Leoncio Y. Gonzales**, ESO Cal.; **Zenaida V. Gutierrez**, Dentistry; **Arnel J. Javier**, Office of General Services (OGS); **Rolando G. Jimenez**, ESO Mla.; **Salvador P. Manalo**, ESO Cal.; **Pedro M. Natonton**, **Danilo S. Patelo** and **Perfecto R. Pigao Jr.**, ESO Mla.; **Rolando C. Pistan**, Secondary Laboratory School (SLS); **Rodolfo G. Reproto**, CAS Mla.; **Consuelo P. del Rio**, College of Fine Arts (CFA).; **Hipolito A. Salayog**, ESO Mla.; **Rogelio P. Sanicolas**, Engg. Cal.; **Primo G. Santos**, ESO Cal.; **Alexander B. Sumatra** and **Laureano T. Taguiam**; ESO Mla.; **Lourdes P. Teh**, CBA Mla.; **Alfredo D. Valera** and **Rebecca O. Valera**, Dentistry; **Felicito B. Vargas**, Comptroller's Ofc.

20 years

Alipio H. Albarillo, ESO Mla.; **Jose S. Albino** and **Enrique V. Alvir**, CAS Mla.; **Edgardo G. Aranzanso**, Audio-Visual Dept.; **Simeon A. Astoveza**, CAS Mla.; **Marietta F. Austria**, DRRM.; **Ma. Antonia C. Barba**, Libraries Dept.; **Adelaida C. Barrientos**, Property Ofc-Caloocan; **Santa C. Buri**, CAS Mla.; **Gil R. Co**, PE; **Dominador S. Cruz**, ESO Cal.; **Felina M. Cruz**, Office of Research Coordination (ORC); **Victoriano E. Dizon**, Dept. of Engg. Cal.; **Rhonnie C. Estores**, Engg. Cal.; **Juanito U. Eya**, Libraries Dept.; **Lamberto V. Gañgan Jr.**, ESO Cal.; **Mardoña B. Garado**, Comptroller's Ofc; **Rolando B. Go Jr.**, CBA Mla.; **Carmelito S. de Guzman**, ESO Mla.; **Leonardo G. de Jesus**, CBA Mla.; **Herminia O. Lagos**, OGS; **Sonia M. Lim**, CFA; **Rogelio B. Maguigad** and **Vic G. Manuel**, CAS Mla.; **Isidro J. Marcos** and **Veronica M. Masangkay**, Engg. Cal.; **Carlos B. Melo**, Dentistry; **Rodolfo M. Nery**, Comptroller's Ofc; **Anastacio B. Ortega**, ESO Cal.; **Rodolfo A. Padilla**, CBA Cal.; **Mary Ruth S. Palanca**, CAS Cal.; **Antonio C. Rebong**, Engg. Cal.; **Restituto R. Regis**, Security Ofc; **Gertrudo R. Regondola**, Engg. Cal.; **Rodrigo M. Roque**, PE; **Ruben N. Santos**, Dentistry; **Wilfredo S. Serafica**, ESO Cal.; **Nenita G. Sevilla**, CBA Mla.; **Benjamin R. Taller**, Dentistry; **Ireneo L. Torres**, CBA Mla.

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ADVT.

Navy troops kill Abu bandit in raid of Jolo islet

JOLO, Sulu—Naval troops aboard two speedboats on Wednesday raided a small island where Muslim extremists were believed to be hiding, setting off a clash that left at least one guerrilla dead and two navymen wounded, a military official said.

About 20 Army soldiers were later deployed to Taluk island off Sulu province to reinforce the naval troops and help retrieve the wounded, Army brigade commander Col. Alexander Aleo said.

He said helicopter gunships were standing by to help the government troops subdue about 30 gunmen belonging to the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

ABS-CBN News reported last night that the four Mindanao State University teachers being held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf were released yesterday evening after the payment of an unspecified "board and lodging" fee.

"When the navy troops hit the island just before sunrise, the rebels immediately opened fire," Aleo said. He said the fighting continued sporadically until noon on Wednesday.

The guerrillas were believed to be hiding a cache of firearms on Taluk island.

The military has been waging intermittent assaults to finish off the guerrillas and rescue their hostages, including three Indonesian tugboat crewmen and four Filipino Jehovah's Witnesses.

But Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes admitted yesterday that the Abu Sayyaf, although a small group, remains a potent threat.

Reyes made the admission to reporters who asked him to comment on the Abu Sayyaf's threat to continue its kidnapping activities.

"That is the nature of the threat, so we just have to be vigilant and cope with that threat," Reyes said. *Martin Marfil, AP*

Probers here to interview raped girl

INVESTIGATORS from Kuala Lumpur arrived yesterday to interview a 13-year-old Filipino girl allegedly raped at a detention center for illegal immigrants in Sabah.

Sources at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport said the three investigators came aboard a Malaysian Airlines flight. They were taken to a restricted area of the airport and whisked away by Filipino counterparts.

At least two of the Malaysians are policemen while one of them is believed to be a lawyer.

The Malaysians are scheduled to interview the girl who claims she was raped by her Malaysian guards before she was expelled to the Philippines along with hundreds of other Filipinos as part of a Malaysian crackdown against illegals.

Press reports here say that she was raped by a Malaysian policeman.

President Gloria Arroyo had written to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad asking him to act on the case. Mahathir pledged a swift response and dispatched the policemen.

The rape allegations sparked anger in the Philippines as Malaysia deported thousands of Filipinos who had been living illegally in Sabah.

Officials in the Philippines have alleged that at least three children have died during the recent deportation of some 12,000 Filipinos. *AFP*

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RECHT VOOR SISON: SLACHTOFFER VAN ONDERDRUKKING

DUTCH TREAT
Alongside effigies of the US, Dutch and Philippine governments, a local supporter of communist leader Jose Ma. Sison delivers a message to the Dutch Embassy in Makati—in Dutch. Translated, the placard reads: "Justice for Sison: Victim of Oppression." Sison faces eviction from his apartment in Utrecht and deportation to the Philippines after the United States declared the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army as international terrorists.

ERIK ARAZAS

Moonlighting gov't docs defend work schedule

By Armand N. Nocum

DOCTORS at the Lung Center of the Philippines who were accused of moonlighting have refused to be bound by rules that require them to log in or out of work, saying that as medical specialists their work is "output oriented."

But in a media forum, suspended LCP director Fernando Melendres said that as civil servants, the doctors were bound by such rules, which serve as the basis for paying their P26,000-P28,000 salaries.

"You chose to be government doctors, you owe it to the people who pay your salaries. We are doctors 24 hours a day," Melendres said.

Melendres had accused 14 LCP doctors of spending most of their government-paid time attending to private clients, to the detriment of poor non-paying patients.

Melendres said it was not uncommon for LCP doctors to start attending to charity patients at two in the afternoon, although their clinic hours at the LCP begin at 9 a.m.

But Dr. Sullian Natividad-Sy Naval, one of the 14 doctors accused of moonlighting by Melendres, said public health workers cannot be tied to a "rigid schedule" of eight hours a day or 40 hours a week of work.

"They are on call at all times of the day. They cannot abandon their patients and refuse to attend to them on the ground that it is outside office hours," she said in her counter-affidavit submitted to the Ombudsman, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

At the forum, Dr. Norberto Francisco, who was also accused of moonlighting, said that as medical specialists, they were "output oriented."

Besides, he said, an administrative order from the Department of Health even encouraged private practice by government doctors to augment their incomes and to lure highly qualified doctors into public service.

For his part, LCP Deputy Director Jose Pepito Amores accused Melendres of having his own private practice at the neighboring Kidney Center of the Philippines.

But Melendres denied this, saying the real issue was the "habitual dishonesty and falsification of documents" by the 14 doctors, something which could result in the revocation of their medical licenses and their doing jail time.

Amores had charged Melendres with plunder before the Ombudsman for alleged unauthorized investments of LCP funds to the tune of P150 million.

Melendres said it was Amores who invested P260 million of LCP money in management funds during the latter's stint as acting LCP head in 1999.

12th Asean anti-drug workshop set

SOME 200 delegates representing anti-drug organizations in the 10 Asean member states will be attending the 12th IFNGO-Asean Workshop on the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse on Oct. 8-10 at the Holiday Inn Manila.

The workshop will be hosted by the Philippine Council of NGOs against Drug and Substance Abuse (Philcadsa), in cooperation with the Dangerous Drugs Board and the International Federation of NGOs against Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO).

With the theme Maximizing the Utilization of Indigenous Sports and the Arts as Alternative Strategies for Drug Abuse Prevention, the workshop will be highlighted by an exhibit of indigenous Asean art and sports equipment, fun games, and discussions on the promotion of indigenous art and sports as alternatives to drugs.

This is the second time Philcadsa is hosting the IFNGO workshop. The first was the fifth workshop in 1994.

Members of the Philippine Congress, government organizations and other NGOs have pledged their support to Philcadsa to ensure the success of the workshop.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona will deliver the keynote address on Oct. 8. Other dignitaries who will welcome the delegates include Chief Supt. Miguel Coronel, DDB executive director; Chief Supt. Anselmo Avenido, director general of the newly established Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, and Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs and honorary chair of the 12th IFNGO-Asean workshop.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT ITS BEST

ADVT.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2002

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL Founding Chairman

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EDITORIALS

No bail

LEGALESE will not, or should not, get in the way of a layperson's appreciation of the Supreme Court ruling on the case of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez/Mario Crespo as a dispassionate interpretation of the law. The crux of the matter is simple, according to the high court: By law, a person sought for extradition should be put behind bars while his case is being heard. The rights of such a person to due process are not violated if he or she is arrested and held without bail until a ruling on the case is made. The constitutional right to bail may be invoked only in criminal proceedings, because extradition proceedings do not involve judgments of conviction or acquittal.

But it is understandable that certain members of the House—70 at last count—are circling the wagons for the controversial lawmaker who is wanted in the United States on charges of tax evasion, mail fraud, false statements and illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic party. They are protecting one of their own and, therefore, themselves as a branch of government whose powers are co-equal with those of the executive and the judiciary. They are also raising the crucial point of US might—not insignificant in the current context of world affairs when the global superpower is flexing muscle and making known to all and sundry that it will not countenance defiance of what it defines as law—or its manifest destiny.

On the face of it, the lawmakers who signed or expressed intention to sign Resolutions 762 and 763 are correct in jealously guarding their claimed right to study the case of Jimenez/Crespo and, if they deem it necessary, discipline him. Their attitude appears to be that the man may be flamboyant but shadowy, of dubious acquired wealth, a trifle loud, marked by a checkered past, in fact now mysteriously carrying an assumed name, but he's their SOB. It's a stance that not even the US government, which has consistently opposed the establishment of an International Criminal Court to try crimes against humanity and which is known to swiftly come to the aid of its nationals, including those accused of shooting wild boars that turned out to be Filipino citizens, will disagree with.

But it does not help the House any that a number of its members are not exactly paragons of virtue. Rightly or wrongly, the enduring reputation of the chamber as a den of pornographers, "*jueteng*" kings, leaders of private armies, upholders of political dynasties, descendants of a dictator, even intellectually challenged hicks, does nothing to help the contention of some of its members that the Supreme Court ruling on Jimenez/Crespo will provoke a constitutional crisis. Indeed, this very reputation, whether deserved or not, lends resonance to the tribunal's position that the Philippines "should not be converted into a dubious haven where fugitives and escapees can unreasonably delay, mummify, mock, frustrate, checkmate and defeat the quest for bilateral justice."

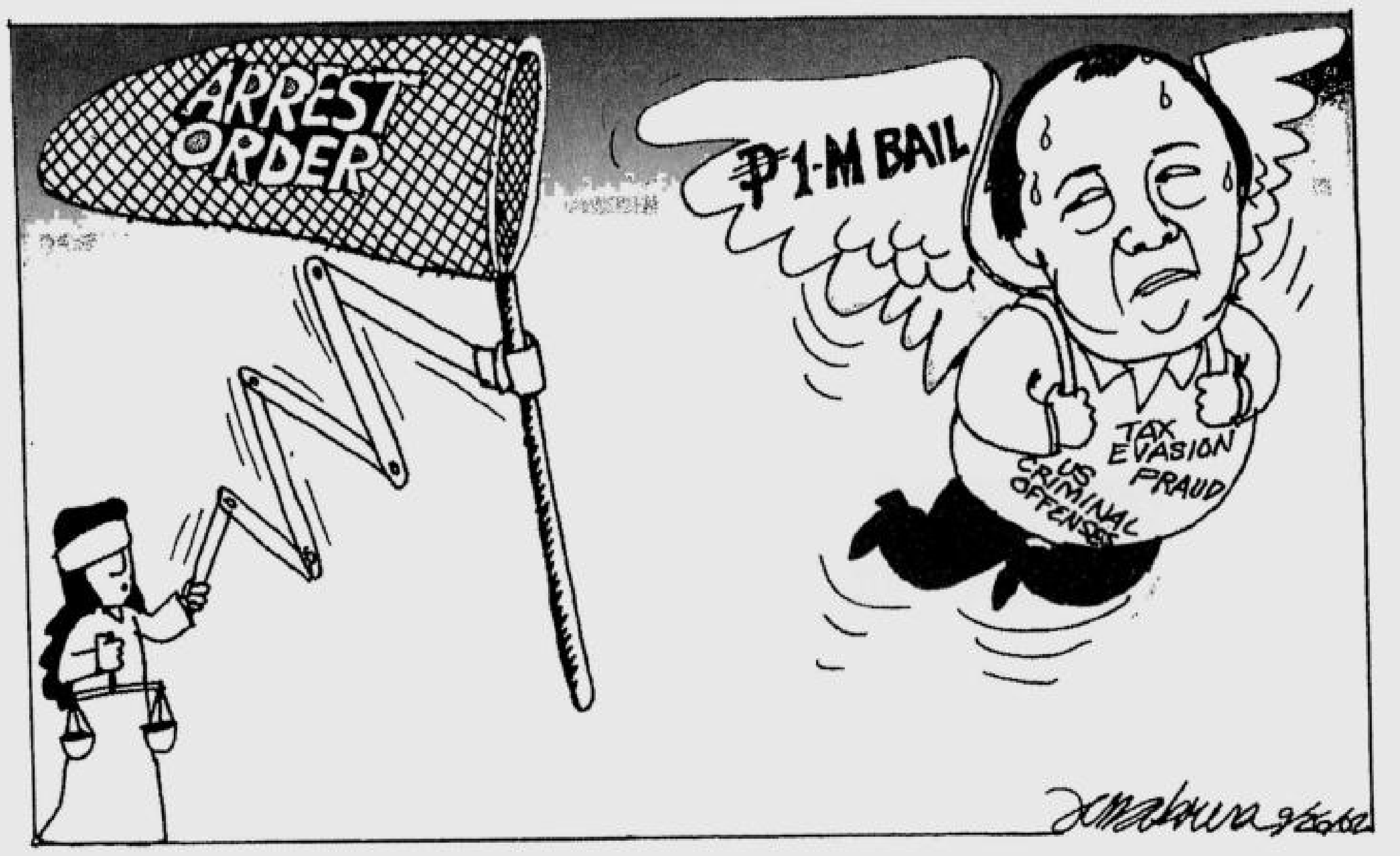
And besides, as in any other important issue in this neck of the woods, so many loose ends serve to snag the attention. For one thing, does Jimenez/Crespo, whom a gushing Joseph Estrada once described as a "corporate genius," still hold a US green card? If he does, how did he manage to run and win as representative of Manila's sixth district? (But observers grown cynical of workings at the top will consider that a stupid question.) For another, is the Department of Justice angling for an exchange of prisoners (that is, Jimenez/Crespo for Charlie "Atong" Ang, Estrada's erstwhile friend, trouble-shooter and bagman, who is being held without bail in a California prison while awaiting extradition to the Philippines)?

And why, now that we are at it, did then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto say sometime last March that the only way for Jimenez/Crespo to delay his extradition to the United States would be to testify against Estrada, whom he served as "adviser on Latin American affairs"?

No way

SPEAKING of the House, it's a bit rich that Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos has issued a call for what she called a dispassionate look at martial law. The woman's image as her father's daughter may be on the road to rehabilitation given her terrific fashion sense, but she's hardly the person to make that call.

No, dear. Better shut the trap on that one.



Why is the PEA always involved in scandal?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PUBLIC Estates Authority has already paid P837 million for a 2.3-kilometer, eight-lane road. And it wants to pay the contractor P402 million more! That would raise the cost to P1.24 billion. Very expensive indeed. In fact, the PEA itself admits "it is the most expensive road in the country." (I should say, in the world. It is almost as if it is paved with gold.) "But it is not overpriced," the PEA insists.

How can it be overpriced when all the money was used up, gone. Where did all of it go? Where do you think?

The PEA claims costs doubled from its original contract price of P584 million because the portions of the road assigned to the lucky contractor, Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction (JDLC), were not stable and had to be excavated and refilled to make them stable. That cost another P600 million.

Three sections of the whole 5.1-km President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB) were awarded to three contractors, Shoemart Inc., DM Wenceslao and JDLC. The first two contractors finished their sections at a fraction of the cost JDLC needed to finish its own section. Why? Because of the soft base of the sections assigned to them, which had to be strengthened.

Two sections were assigned to JDLC: both ends of the boulevard. How come these two sections, separated by 3 km of stable sections in the middle, both had soft bases? How come the sections between them were all right? *Ang malas naman ng* JDLC.

Did JDLC really excavate the base and refill it with more solid material and then cover it with a thick layer of concrete? That is not hard to find out, said former Public Works Undersecretary Aber Canlas, an experienced engineer who knows what he is talking about. Bore down through the road to the base and an analysis of the core recovered will show the different layers under the road, Canlas said. It will show how thick is the concrete, what layer it is lying on, and what other layers are underneath: rock, gravel, sand, mud or silt. This is the fastest way to resolve the issue of whether the boulevard is overpriced or not, he said.

So why don't we do that? Somebody should appoint Canlas to head the team to make the tests and come up with its conclusions.

* * *

Why is it that the PEA is always involved in billion-peso scams? The multibillion-peso PEA-Amari scandal is still fresh in the people's minds. Then there is that expensive but rotting housing project along Coastal Road, unoccupied until now and deteriorating fast. Millions of our countrymen don't have homes, and yet here are these housing units lying unused.

Does the PEA attract the most unsavory characters? Does it arouse the criminal instincts of men? Does it have a concentration of greedy operators?

* * *

The names of the overpriced boulevard and that of its contractor are also tinged with irony. The road was named after President Diosdado Macapagal, obviously to make *sip-sip* with his daughter, the incumbent President. One bridge was named after her mother, Eva Macapagal, and another bridge after her *lola*. Had there been more bridges, they would probably have been christened Mike, Mikey and Luli.

Cong Dadong, whom I covered as Malacañang reporter when he was president, is probably turning in his grave. He was known as the "Poor Boy from Lubao," and he was really poor. His studies were financed by a rich and kindly townmate. When he became president, one of the first things he did was to call for austerity. He and his wife popularized the "Pagasa" cloth to bring down the cost of clothes, and he wore, even on formal occasions, a long-sleeved polo shirt instead of an expensive coat and tie. Isn't it ironic that such an expensive and scandalous road is named after this "poor boy" who emphasized thriftiness and was scrupulously honest?

Somebody has suggested that the DMB name be changed from Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard to *"Dios ko po, Mapakamahal* Boulevard."

Another irony: the name of the contractor of this "scandalously overpriced" road is Jesusito. He was named after Jesus Christ. And yet…

* * *

The ballooning cost of the PDMB is nothing new in the Philippines. Almost all contracts with the government start low and finish high. All perfectly legal, too. The contracts have escalation clauses. The contractor always asks for an increase in the contract price for a variety of excuses: the price of construction materials went up, there was a delay in the project, the minimum wage was increased by Congress, etc.

In biddings, contractors bid low to win the contract. But as the construction progresses, they keep asking for increases. And the government officials keep giving those increases, because they get part of it.

Look at our water rates now. The two winning bidders submitted very low bids just to win the franchises. The contract stipulated that there can be no rate increase within five years. But after only a year, they were already asking for increases. And now our water rates have already doubled. But the supply of water has been halved. In the village where I live, there is water for only half of the 24-hour day.

A culture of walking

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

OUR guide says the restaurant is just 20 minutes away by foot. And it's worth the walk because it is an excellent seafood restaurant by the Hamburg harbor.

We take him at his word and start walking from the subway station. It is nearly eight in the evening, but the sun is just setting. A cold wind is blowing from the sea. We wrap ourselves more tightly in our sweaters and coats and thrust our hands deep into our trouser pockets.

The nippy air helps to make the walk not unpleasant, but not so the distance. It turns out the place is 20 minutes by foot, if one is a professional hiker. Or it looks so from where we stand—or walk. Most of the people accompanying us might as well be so. They walk every day, traversing long distances with the greatest of ease on the way to work or school or the grocery. Our guide, Dirk, a young man of 31 who is finishing his Ph.D. in politics and sociology in a Hamburg university whom we call Hugh because of his resemblance to Hugh Grant (he sounds like him too, stammer and all), bounds off cheerfully in the mist.

Surprisingly, I find the walk exhilarating. Surprising because my knees and feet have been much ravaged by gout over the years, which has posed no small inconvenience to walking, which has always been one of my favorite pastimes. The cold of course helps. Everyone forgets the exertion, grateful only for the warmth it brings, and the thought that the next *toiletten* is just round the corner.

True enough, the restaurant soon draws nigh. And truer enough, it proves worth the five or so kilometers of auto-propulsion. I will say nothing about the repast in that commodious place lest I be accused of trying to rub salt on wound, or trying to make people envious.

The experience, however, has filled me again with awe and wonder at the magic of walking. I've been doing quite a bit of it here, though not completely voluntarily. You've no choice for the most part. The Herren's room is normally some distance away, which is a disincentive to allowing yourself to surrender totally and recklessly to the even greater spell of beer. Combined with the weather, which is late summer, but which is home to a naughty wind and low temperatures at night, beer sends you scrambling for relief almost after every (small) mug. Which often means taking a hike before taking a leak.

That's the great thing about European cities and New York and San Francisco in the United States. Unfortunately, you can't say the same thing about Los Angeles, which resolutely worships cars and equally resolutely displays the not very edifying culture that goes with it. Elsewhere, the main Western cities are hospitable to walking—and biking. Dirk does both plentifully. And reminds us to be careful about the biking lanes, which is a strip of the sidewalk demarcated by a reddish paint. Bikers, he says with a straight face, are often more reckless than drivers, which is saying quite a lot when you note the cars speeding in streets. I saw three car accidents in Hamburg (the city the burghers built, the most prosperous in all of Germany) in five days, and in one of them one car had turned turtle. I decided to take our guide's advice about being wary of reckless bikers completely seriously.

I remembered again what I said many moons ago about our lack of a walking culture. I wrote that in connection with complaints by commuters about the MRT stations being some distance away from the nearest mall or office or eating place. And since they were not accessible by tricycle, they compelled people to either walk to and from them or ride a cab or bus to get to them. The first, they said, was inconvenient, the second costly. What made the first impractical was that people going to work ended up undoing their morning bath, or getting soaked in rain. People staggering toward home at night moreover flashed an open invitation to muggers.

The complaint is not unreasonable. Our streets are truly inhospitable places for walking. Quite apart from the extremes of heat and rain, there is the soot left by buses in particular, an explosion of black smoke that leaves a long trail behind, to engulf you in the sidewalks, and muggers, or worse sexual perverts, to harass you late at night. The first is bad enough, the extremes of heat and rain. I remember again a friend of mine saying the reason he did not mind walking long distances in a campus in London was the bracing air. You could be wrapped in a sweater and scarf and not break into a sweat. I myself find something else that makes walking a pleasant experience in these countries, and that is the benches. You get tired, you sit on a bench, stretch your legs and either read a book or watch the world go by.

Our complaints about the MRT stations are not unreasonable as I've said. But I wonder sometimes how much of it is based on real fears and how much comes from inertia. The inertia brought on by our reliance on tricycles and other conveyances to bring us right to our very doorstep. That's yet another feature that makes living in Metro Manila not particularly healthy. It robs us of the salutary, probably therapeutic (walking cures stress faster than any tranquilizer) effects of that most basic of human functions.

And that ultimately is what the residents of the most renowned cities in the West have in common with the residents of the most obscure villages in this country. They can always say when people ask them how far a place is, "It's near. *Doon lang,*" pointing to a space somewhere in the horizon.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Notable SC decisions

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHATEVER move the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Jose de Venecia, will take in the case of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, will be watched by the entire country. We can only hope that they would uphold the Supreme Court order for Jimenez's arrest, once it rules with finality on the motion for reconsideration of his lawyer, Mario Bautista. It is doubtful if the Supreme Court would reverse its decision, so that we can expect the House to grapple with the reality of Jimenez's arrest, hopefully also with finality, to prevent a constitutional crisis. The House ought to respect the Supreme Court decision, as it is the final arbiter of our laws.

* * *

Bautista, who was among the private prosecutors in the Estrada impeachment trial, has argued that there was no need for the Court to cancel his client's bail bond, as he has no intention of fleeing. But Bautista has to realize that the law has to apply equally. Once a foreign government seeking the extradition of someone for criminal offenses has fulfilled the initial requirements of the Department of Justice, he has to be arrested and jailed under PD 1069, the Extradition Law, and in the case of Jimenez, the extradition treaty between the US and RP, while a local court tries to determine the correctness of the circumstances of the case. An exception cannot be made just because the fugitive is a very high profile character.

* * *

In canceling Jimenez's bail, the SC correctly stressed its grave concern that this country does not become, as ponente Justice Artemio Panganiban put it, "a dubious haven where fugitives and escapees can unreasonably delay (and) defeat the quest for bilateral justice and international cooperation." Justice Undersecretary Mercy Gutierrez, who handled the Jimenez case for the DOJ, explained to this columnist that the executive department put the case forward as defined by the legislative branch in the Extradition Law and various extradition treaties, and as interpreted by the high court. We can only hope our congressmen will not block this healthy inter-branch cooperation, as this would reflect very badly on the House.

* * *

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales Jr., one of the 70 lawmakers who signed a petition to prevent Jimenez's extradition, has said *kawawa naman ang mga* constituents niya, *mawawalan ng* representation. But the SC is quite firm on this point, reminding Jimenez's constituents that they already knew about his predicament when they voted for him in May 2001. It should be an object lesson for our voters to choose their representatives well. Besides, there have been cases of House members who resigned to accept posts in the executive branch. What's the difference between them and surrendering Jimenez to justice?

* * *

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez should feel most vindicated by the SC ruling. A few months ago, when the case seemed to be dragging and people were getting quite impatient, there was talk that Perez had been bribed. I told him about this and he laughingly referred me to Gutierrez, whom he had assigned to handle the case. Gutierrez explained that the case was already out of the DOJ's hands.

* * *

Another interesting SC decision was its order to stop the proclamation of the winner in the Puerto Princesa recall election last Sept. 24. Apparently the Court was unable to rule on the petition filed by three citizens seeking the disqualification of ex-Mayor Edward Hagedorn since it was swamped by several big cases. But it was also evident that the Court realized that the issue of Hagedorn's eligibility couldn't be ignored, as it involved an important constitutional question. As lawyer Jose Bernas of Namfrel put it, what it's all about is the difference between "term" and "tenure."

Rightly the Court perceived that the case would set a precedent. In stopping the proclamation of the winner, the Court was able to buy time to study the issue more deeply before making a definitive ruling.

* * *

One wishes, however, that this issue was settled before the recall election, for it would be a tragedy if Hagedorn were to be disqualified after he has won. Yet, it would be a bigger headache if he were allowed to sit as new mayor, as there would be a lot of confusion over the issue of whether a three-term mayor or governor can serve the unused portion of his immediate successor's term, which would in effect be his fourth term. If Hagedorn is disqualified, Mayor Dennis Socrates, who split the vote with a third candidate, will remain in office, as per the recall law. But the fact that he lost, albeit by a slim margin, means he did not obtain the people's mandate. How can he rule effectively?

* * *

The Carmelites of the Monastery of St. Therese in Gilmore, Quezon City, has again sent notice about the Triduum of concelebrated Masses in preparation for the feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus (Little Flower) as well as the World Congress for Families in January 2003. The schedule is as follows: Sunday, Sept. 29, 6 p.m., with Fr. Mariano "Jun Jun" Agruda III as main celebrant, with the Religious of the Virgin Mary choir; Monday, Sept. 30, 6 p.m., with Fr. Poli Ty, SSS, as main celebrant, with the Blessed Sacrament Seminarians choir; and Tuesday, Oct. 1, the Feast of St. Therese, with Rev. Rolando Tria Tirona, OCD, DD, as main celebrant, with the San Jose Seminary choir. These are in addition to the regular daily morning Masses at 6:30. Devotees are enjoined to bring their roses for blessing and there will be a veneration of the relic of St. Therese after each Mass.

How healthy are Filipinos?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HOW healthy are Filipinos? Where should government, with its limited resources, place its health priorities? What health problems and issues, behaviors and treatments, most deserve attention, funding and support?

These are just some of the questions that a team of policymakers, medical practitioners, public health personnel and consultants from the private sector and NGOs sought to answer when they formulated the National Objectives for Health. The document contains a "national strategy for significantly improving the health of the nation over the coming decade," and sets national objectives and goals for health "through the prevention and control of diseases and the promotion and protection of health."

To validate and refine the objectives identified by the team, the Department of Health commissioned the National Institutes of Health of UP Manila to conduct baseline surveys on the health status, needs and practices of Filipinos. The findings, said Dr. Mario Villaverde of the DOH's Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau, will then be used to "adjust the targets" set in the NOH which were formulated in 1999.

Health personnel conducted the baseline survey in 13 regions around the country, with an impressive number of respondents (almost 3,000 women were interviewed on household health practices, for instance) scientifically randomized.

* * *

AMONG THE MORE significant findings is that relatively simple and healthy behavior, such as washing hands before handling food and after using the bathroom, needs to be promoted more heavily.

Hand-washing can prevent the transmission of infectious diseases, which are a major cause of illness and death in the country, but the practice is not universally and consistently applied. While a large proportion of schoolchildren reported that they regularly washed their hands before every meal, much fewer said they made it a habit to wash their hands after going to the bathroom.

Maybe that's why, said Prof. Rachel Delino, diarrhea, tuberculosis and malaria, when combined, have become a "huge concern" for health authorities. The National Objectives for Health identifies the following objectives in the area of communicable and infectious diseases: reduce morbidity (illness) and mortality (death) from TB, reduce morbidity and mortality from pneumonia and other acute respiratory infections, eradicate polio with the Philippines declared polio-free, eliminate measles, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis as public health problems, and reduce morbidity, mortality and complications from TB and hepatitis B.

Other fairly uncomplicated behavior, the wearing of car seat belts while the vehicle is on the road, and the use of helmets by drivers and passengers of motorcycles, also need heavier promotion. According to the survey, seat-belt use is still far from universal, with 52 percent of drivers and 23 percent of front-seat passengers making it a habit to "buckle up." Jeepney drivers and passengers, it was pointed out, are the least likely to use (or have) seat belts. As for motorcycle drivers, only 34 percent report using helmets regularly, with a much lower percentage for passengers.

* * *

AMONG THE GOALS of the National Objectives for Health and the Baseline Survey was to identify emerging health issues and problems that could be addressed even now while they are still manageable.

For instance, it was only in 1995 that diabetes, which has been identified as a "lifestyle" disease that could trigger major health complications, made it to the "Top Ten" causes of death in the country. This means that the public health sector needs to do more in terms of promoting healthier lifestyles, such as regular exercise, to control the number of complications and deaths arising from diabetes.

Dr. Villaverde says the NOH, as well as data from the baseline survey, will be disseminated to local governments as an aid to local executives who are now responsible for delivering health services and information at the most basic level. The information should also prove useful to constituents interested in measuring their officials' performance in health delivery.

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Diana Cua, a breast cancer surgeon based in the Makati Medical Center, for receiving the Bessie B. Legarda Memorial Award during the launch the other day of the "Cards for Cure" project.

The award is given annually in celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, in recognition of individuals who have done pioneering work in the promotion of breast cancer awareness here and abroad. Dr. Cua was cited for her work in the field of medicine, advocacy and care for breast cancer survivors.

While public awareness about breast cancer prevention and cure has steadily risen, the painful truth is that for many Filipinas a diagnosis of breast cancer is a virtual death sentence since they are too poor to take advantage of any of the available treatment options. This is why the Zonta Club of Makati and Environs Foundation, headed by chair Monica Aveo, and Hallmark Cards have joined hands in a project to help women with breast cancer.

"Cards for Cure" involves a special line of "everyday greeting cars" produced by Hallmark. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the cards will be earmarked for medicines for breast cancer patients and for promoting breast cancer awareness. Each card dedicated for the project will carry a leaflet insert containing facts on breast cancer.

Sitio Talaga and 'education revolution'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

DO you know the way to Sitio Talaga?

Last Tuesday I was with a small group that went to Sitio Talaga in Barangay Maybangkal, Morong, Rizal. We visited the new Talaga Elementary School which is, believe me, in the middle of nowhere. You wouldn't think it is just less than two hours ride from Metro Manila. So near and yet so far. It is a secluded place surrounded by tree farms, orchards and what looks like unexplored wilderness.

Here live about 500 voters and their families. (A resident gave me that number when I asked how many families lived here.) Most families have lived here for an average of 15 years. I did not have the time to do social investigation but I figured they had been brought there. The homes are arranged in neat rows with narrow alleys to separate them.

This is where Talaga Elementary School, an extension of Maybangkal Elementary School, was built a few months ago. The district supervisor called it a Sona school because it was rushed in time for President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address last June. For whatever purpose it may serve.

Here two very small school buildings were built to house Grades 1, 2 and 3. Between the two schoolhouses stands a lone tall mango tree, perhaps almost a hundred years old, huge and awesome like a cathedral.

So, what were we doing here?

The Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) has picked this school to be one of the pilot schools under its Adopt-a-School Program. I did have something to do with its picking, simply through my humble saliva. Me and my big mouth. You know, getting people whom I know connected with one another by word of mouth, and then praying things would turn out well and saying under my breath, *bahala na kayo ha?* then heading for parts unknown. Something came out of it.

Well, Eggie Apostol, FWWPP's president (the INQUIRER's founding chair, now busily unretired), had to drag me along, the better for me to witness the signing of the memorandum of agreement by the community leaders and responsible persons, agreeing to be the object of a FWWPP project. Under the shade of an ancient tree.

And the project is: adopt a school. Yes, the FWWPP is making a new call for people power—away from politics and nearer to the people. It is calling for "Education Revolution."

The FWWPP is convinced that "education is the best weapon against poverty," education that is beyond the basic skills of reading, writing and 'rithmetic. Education that "emphasizes the value of love and concern for family, community, country; education that empowers and breeds citizens of purpose and vision."

There are about 35,000 public elementary schools and 5,000 public high schools throughout the country with an enrolment of about 17 million students. While the government allocates money for these schools, the FWWPP points out that there has never been enough to make them as effective as they should be. This is where civil society—citizens like you and me—should come in.

Here is what the FWWPP is proposing for those who wish to get involved in the adopt-a-school program:

Start by addressing the basic needs of the elementary public school system. Visit the school, meet with the principal and the teachers, find out their needs, talk with the parent-teacher-community association and other community leaders. Plan ways of helping the school.

Use "people power" to move local officials to pay attention to the school. Get local residents and business to support a school feeding program, or to donate additional textbooks, library books and school supplies.

If local help is not available, write your governor, representatives, senators.

March to your nearest public elementary school.

The FWWPP is offering its facilities and services to be the clearing house for education-related activities. (Contact numbers and addresses: 6332185, 6332820, fwwpp@glinesnx.com.ph.) The FWWPP also has a list of civic, corporate and religious organizations already doing their part to boost public school education. You could network with them.

In case you did not know, RA 8525 or the Adopt-a-School Act of 1998 was enacted to encourage private sector assistance for public schools. The Department of Education established the Adopt-a-School secretariat in 2000 to systematize the implementation of this law. Credit Anna Periquet, the youth sector representative who introduced the bill in Congress in 1997. It was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Juan Flavier and sponsored by the late Sen. Marcelo Fernan.

Besides Adopt-a-School, the FWWPP has another concern: the teachers. The FWWPP hopes to set up a Mentoring the Mentors Program. This aims to empower teachers as agents of change by developing their mentoring skills and opening them to the concept of education for social transformation.

Unlike Adopt-a-School, Mentoring the Mentors Program is a more centralized type of endeavor that needs focused funding. The program's target clientele are Teacher Educational Institutions (TEI) involved in training future teachers and already employed teachers.

I asked one of the teachers in Talaga Elementary School how she was faring (salary-wise) and she said, with a great smile on her face, that she has not received her salary since she started last June. She is considered a volunteer until things get approved upstairs. All the stuff she has put up in her pretty little classroom—visual aids and all—she made from out of her little pocket.

Talaga Elementary School still has no water system and no electricity, although the wiring and lighting fixtures have been installed. When it rains and it's dark, Ma'am tells the kids, "Sleep *muna kayo ha?*" and waits for the sun to break through the gray clouds over Talaga.

* * *

Comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Almost a mistress

YOUNG BLOOD

Jen Esguerra

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I NEVER thought I'd fall for a married man. Not even when, shortly after graduating from college, I began attracting more than my share of legally unavailable guys.

The idea simply was alien to my world. My parents love each other. My father sleeps with my mother, hands over to her most of what he earns, and comes home often before the sun sets. My mother takes care of my father's needs. They've been married 30 years and remain inseparable. If anything, my parents are extraordinarily loyal and true.

Yet here I am, reeling from a short-lived relationship with a young husband and father. My time with Vin didn't last long enough or go far enough to be classified as anything more than a first fling, but after him, the complacent belief I've had since childhood that I'd surely end up married and faithful ever after has been shattered. All because for one crazy, intoxicated stretch of time, I shifted perspectives to accommodate someone I really wanted but couldn't have. Vin wasn't the first married guy who tried to get into my pants, but he was the only one who came within striking distance.

We met at a function. I was sitting by myself when he came over and tried to start a conversation. I wasn't very cooperative; I was there to meet my boss and she was two hours late. I hardly remembered what he said, or what he looked like, or where our conversation went. All I had to remind me of our first encounter were his calling card and a faint recollection of an attractive young man.

Vin didn't ask for my number. "I wanted to but you looked about ready to blow me off," he told me afterward. I retorted that his timing was terrible. And yet it was I who called him.

It happened two months later, after a friend asked me to look for applicants to a position vacated by a colleague. Since she, Vin and I all worked for the same industry, I looked for his card and asked if he knew anybody interesting. He didn't, but, boy, was he glad to hear from me.

And so it began. To his credit, Vin confessed his current status on our very first date. By then we had already communicated extensively and found we had an amazing chemistry. It didn't help that when we met again I found myself liking the way he looked. I got the situation right away: He is married but he and his wife aren't living together. They don't like each other very much. It's not working out. She has the kid. She's difficult. He's neglected and lonely.

Tell that to any woman and, chances are, her natural instinct to take care of you, to make things better for you will kick in. Add to that her honest appreciation of your personality and a steady stream of physical attraction, and you've got me. Indeed, no matter how intelligent or worldly they are, no matter how successful or gifted, some women are just soft-hearted fools, eager to please.

At first, Vin said he was hoping that someday I'd agree to become his "girlfriend" (it sounds a whole lot better than "*kabit*," you see, and conveniently puts all thought of wife and child aside), but I said I wasn't open to the idea, though we could be friends. And I did mean that at the time, never mind that his car all but burned up with sexual tension and I kept squirming in my seat.

Now I realize that I should've run away, taken a cab and gone back home, never to see him again. Because a few hours later later he kissed me. And I kissed him back.

In time, Vin managed to pull me free from my fragile grip on the values I fight to keep. You see, I've always been this good girl wanting so desperately to be bad. I complain about the rules but follow them anyway. I envy people who guiltlessly indulge in the pleasures of this world. I begrudge those who take what they want when they want it without falling apart with self-loathing afterward. I covet the lives of girls who drink, dance and make love without remorse, who don't have curfews. Suddenly, I wanted to give in to my needs, to my urges, to say the hell with love and marriage and self-control, to say the hell with everything that puts us above dogs that fornicate on the streets. I wanted to be with Vin.

One of my best friends told me I was treading a path strewn with land mines. That I was purposely being self-indulgent, trying to see how far I could go without having the whole thing explode in my face.

I knew I didn't want to be a mistress—I found the idea demeaning. I'm young, talented and attractive. I'm intelligent and full of promise. I deserve much more than a dead-end relationship that offered nothing but sex and perhaps a bit of friendship. I wanted someone like my father, who loves my mother like crazy, who married her and stayed married to her and will very likely grow old with her. But I couldn't let Vin go.

Vin also wavered at times. He felt guilty about cheating on his wife and taking advantage of me, yet he was too attracted to me to stay away. He'd alternate between saying the most respectful phrases to the sleaziest, most insensitive one-liners. He'd avoid me for a week only to appear the next, appealing for intimacy. And all the time I was just there, riding an emotional roller coaster, waiting to crash and ultimately burn.

Many times Vin couldn't understand why I kept refusing to have sex with him even when every part of my body was already screaming yes. I guess I made the mistake of agreeing to a few things, of fostering intimacy that had him feeling I was leading him on. But I wasn't being a tease. I was just being stupid. I was deciding where the lines should be drawn. Does kissing make me a mistress? Does phone sex make me a mistress? Is making out in the car mistress behavior? Does sleeping—literally just sleeping together—make me one? To my lust-filled eyes, everything had conveniently become an ugly shade of gray.

So why did I leave? Perhaps because despite genuinely liking and being filled with lust, I never believed for an instant that Vin and I would end up together. It was a classic case of "he's bored, she's lonely." He didn't love me; I didn't love him. We didn't know each other well enough to ever feel that. I don't think he even wanted to. And for that I'm thankful. Because at the rate I was going, a dishonest profession of love could have lured me into bed like no practiced caress can.

In the end, my own idealistic notions about how life should be, my resolve to remain respectable and my naive belief that people should make love only because they love put a stop to my indirect attempts to hurt myself.

It's over. Vin left a long time ago, and I've moved on. Those who know and love me can now breathe and sigh in relief. I won't be walking down that path after all.

Jen Esguerra, 23, likes books; dance music and coffee. She's gone corporate and misses her old job.

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A new breed of doctors

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

DOCTORS have been getting a rather bad press lately, what with stories of medical malpractice and moonlighting government doctors. But here's a bit of good news about another breed of doctors, training in an innovative new program called Leaders for Health Project (LHP).

Last August in the cities of Surigao and Tacloban, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Ateneo de Manila University held a *salubungan*, officially "turning over" some of these doctors to local government officials from Surigao del Norte, Western Samar and Biliran.

The deployment is being made as part of the DOH's Doctors to the Barrios, a program which started during the time of Dr. Juan Flavier, who was concerned that there were more than 200 municipalities in the Philippines that had no doctors. Ten years after the program started, we still have many such towns. Surigao del Norte, for example, had 17 doctor-less towns, including several on the tourist destination of Siargao. Now, Surigao del Norte is at least getting 13 doctors for these towns.

But there's more to all this than a deployment of doctors to remote rural villages. The doctors are now being trained as part of the Ateneo de Manila's LHP, formulated by a team headed by another former health secretary, Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, with support from the DOH and the Pfizer Philippines Foundation.

The project includes a series of "enhancement seminars" with local government officials, NGOs and community leaders, to convince them of the need for a partnership approach to health, where communities play the lead role with doctors coming in more for support.

The doctors themselves are enrolled at the Ateneo, together with some personnel from the DOH central office, working toward a master's in health management. Most of their two years of masteral work will be spent in the communities but there will also be classes in Manila (or other central cities, probably Cebu), held every three months.

The first of these classes was held last August, and being one of the lecturers, I can compare those sessions to intensive care, "intensive" being an understatement. That first round of classes consisted of two weeks of daily lectures and discussions, held Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break.

The first week had two subjects: "Principles and Concepts in Health and Development" and "Local Governance." I handled the second week's morning sessions on "Health, Culture and Society." And while I'd head off for UP (yes, that's still my home institution), the doctors stayed on for another grueling class, this time on "Health Informatics, Measurements and Methods of Research."

To give you an idea of what the LHP is doing, you can take a peek at what I do in my classes. My course was, in a way, a re-run of medical school but from a social and cultural perspective. Instead of dissecting cadavers to learn anatomy, I got them to think of body names in local languages (you'd be surprised by how many doctors can name the tiniest nerves in the body but don't know what gall bladder is in local languages).

We also got to talking about the differences in the way people look at body functions, and how this forms the basis for folk pathology. The Cebuanos, for example, refer to *kabuhi*, a kind of force (*buhi* means life) centered around the epigastric region. Pain here is believed to be caused by a displacement of *kabuhi*. Biomedically, this is diagnosed as a gastric ulcer but in folk medicine, there are different explanations and forms of treatment.

We didn't just talk about local beliefs and practices. In the days that followed, it became clear that the most formidable health problems often came from the outside, from "development" and "modernization" as in the massive promotions of junk foods, for example, or tobacco.

"Political economy." "Governance." "Civil society." Those were the key words tossed around during the two weeks of classes. By week's end, I had to remind the doctors that the lectures weren't intended to give them ready-made answers. All we could do in the LHP was to equip them with different "lenses." Some of those lenses, like the ones you find on a microscope, were important for examining minute details. In other situations, where we needed to look at a bigger picture, the lenses were more like those on binoculars, or even high-powered telescopes.

Will the LHP work? Frankly, I don't know yet. But I'm optimistic, given the commitment of the physicians. Let me just describe some of them, without their names for now.

One doctor was from the Cordillera and already had experiences working in Batanes. Another one had started his Doctor to the Barrios stint even before the LHP, assigned to Surigao's Dinagat Island, home to the controversial Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA).

One doctor's children were now in college so she felt she could leave them behind. Some of the younger doctors were just starting their families but were going to leave their spouses and children behind for the community service.

The commitment of this group was touching: one of the doctors' mother passed away shortly after we began the course, but he chose to stay on to finish the two weeks and then rushed back to his home province for her funeral.

I don't want to focus on the LHP solely as an Ateneo program. The fact that we have such doctors speaks well, too, of the medical schools that produced them. The Davao Medical School Foundation, which has worked hard for many years to orient their students toward community medicine, deserves special mention. Five of their graduates are in this pilot LHP group.

The other doctors came from the following schools: Western Visayas State University, St. Louis University, Remedios Trinidad Romualdez Medical Foundation, UST, FEU and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. UP also had its share, with graduates from the PGH campus and the Institute of Health Sciences in Tacloban.

So there was only one graduate from the PGH, but I'm still hopeful. I've already told the LHP group that next time we meet in November, it will be their turn to do the talking. I'll tap into their stories to keep you updated on this brave attempt to redirect our health care system.

An objective assessment of prospects

OVER THE LAST week, a Deutsche Bank investment advisory report on the Philippines has been widely quoted in the press and has become the subject of much misunderstanding. The report has been used by critics of the Macapagal administration to question its economic management. As the author of the report, I am compelled to correct certain misimpressions that have arisen and set matters straight.

First, the report in question, "Philippine Strategy: The costs of slippage," was not commissioned by the Philippine government, as Brian Yamsuan, chief of staff on political affairs of Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, claimed in a letter to the INQUIRER last Sept. 19. The report was an equity strategy piece written for the bank's investor client base here and abroad.

Moreover, the report was not prepared to fulfill a mandate "to come up with a favorable assessment of (the Philippine) economy." It was written to provide foreign investor clients with an independent and objective assessment of the prospects for Philippine companies in the light of economic developments.

Second, it was unfortunate that Yamsuan drew the conclusion that "Deutsche Bank cannot find anything positive to say about the President's leadership." The strategy piece was the third of such reports written on the Philippines this year, and commented specifically on budget deficit issues. The two previous strategy reports were in fact highly complimentary of the government's overall macroeconomic management which had enabled the Philippines to de-couple with Argentina and other embattled Latin American economies.

Third, in asking the government to cancel its global investment road show, some portions of which are being sponsored by Deutsche Bank, Oreta was quoted as saying that the road show "was playing to near-empty halls in Hong Kong and Singapore." While I cannot answer for the Hong Kong leg, which was sponsored by another bank, I wish to point out that the Singapore portion was well attended, with at least 37 foreign fund managers showing up. Trade Secretary Mar Roxas' opening remarks and the question-and-answer forum, which I moderated, were a standing-room-only affair.

—ANTONIO JOSE PERIQUET, head of research and country strategist, Deutsche Bank Group, 23/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Makati City

A peso for a patriot

ANAKBAYAN-National Capital Region would like to make the following reply to your editorial last Sunday, entitled "A good laugh."

First, the "Piso para kay Prof. Jose Maria Sison Campaign" is our way of augmenting legal aid and supporting what is right. It is also in recognition of the inspiration Sison has been to the people as the strongest and dedicated advocate for a just and progressive society, as he is the sharpest critic of the moribund capitalist system of modern times.

Sison's writings on the Philippine state and revolution and his articles on the struggle for national democracy and the Philippine crisis and revolution are invaluable works from which the Filipino youth have drawn valuable ideas. His writings give hope, provide correct analyses and set the right direction for the fight and struggle of not just the Filipinos, but of all races as well.

Yes, the "Piso para kay Jose Maria Sison Campaign" is really a good laugh indeed, compared to the million of dollars being spent by the governments of the United States and the Philippines for the demonization and the black propaganda against Sison. It is also pathetic for them to criminalize a genuine freedom fighter, a good teacher, a good friend, a father and a patriot just to perpetuate their narrow interests.

A peso can contribute much in starting a fierce fire. As the old saying goes, "It takes a tiny spark to tickle a flame."

—WILSON PAGUYO, secretary general, Anakbayan-NCR, 1316 San Perfecto St., Sampaloc, Manila

Demeaning the presidency

TO SAY the least, it is very unbecoming of a President of the country to appear in a crass imitation of the "Men in Black" outfit.

It demeans the presidency.

Ms Macapagal-Arroyo should not try too hard to "sell" an image. She may wish to take a cue from Woodrow Wilson: "When you think too much of reelection, it will be difficult to be worth reelecting."

—ANTONIO A. OPOSA JR., Suite 6-J Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City

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Manila/Dumaguete			P 1599	P 2799
Manila/Iloilo	P 1599	P 3198	P 1549	P 2799
Manila/Kalibo	P 1999	P 3998	P 1599	P 2799
Manila/Roxas	P 1799	P 3598	P 1599	P 2799
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Gunmen massacre 30 in Hindu temple

GANDHINAGAR, India—Indian commandos stormed a Hindu temple complex on Wednesday, ending a siege and killing two gunmen who had burst into the building and massacred 30 people and wounded more than 70.

The gunmen were in their early 20s and carried letters in Urdu, a language used by Muslims in South Asia, in their pockets, according to a Reuters reporter who saw their bloodstained bodies dragged out by police.

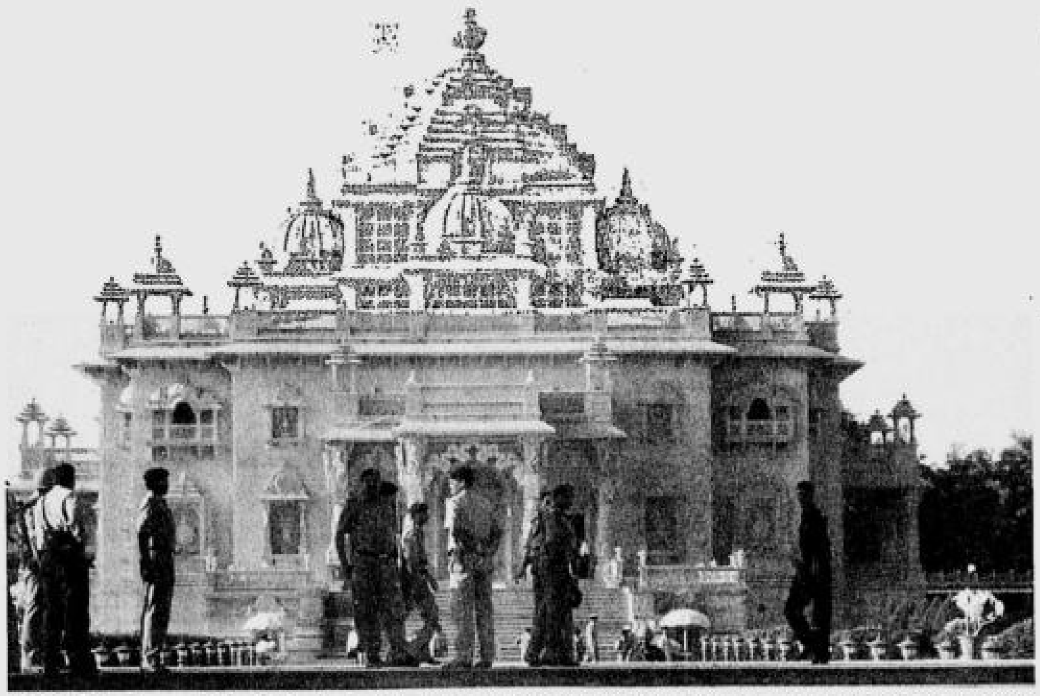
Officials said the name of a previously unknown group calling itself the Tehrik-e-Kasas (Movement of Revenge) was found written in the letters.

"We are trying to find out more about the organization whose name has been mentioned," Indian Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani told reporters.

The raid on the Akshardham Temple in western Gujarat raised fears of heightened tensions with Muslim Pakistan and fresh religious violence in the state where at least 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, were killed in February and March.

Without explicitly naming Pakistan, Advani said "enemies of the country" were behind the attack, which occurred in his constituency.

Pakistan condemned the assault and denied any part in it.



POLICE stand guard Sept.25 in front of the Akshardham temple after elite commandos raided the temple and shot dead the militants. At least 30 people were killed and some 70 others injured after militants burst into the temple in India's riot-torn western Gujarat state and sprayed devotees with automatic gunfire.

AFP

The two gunmen, hurling grenades and firing AK-47s, burst into the vast pink-sandstone temple complex during evening prayers on Tuesday, shooting indiscriminately at pilgrims inside.

Four the next several hours, as scores of people trapped inside hid and prayed for their lives in assorted rooms, the gunmen moved about the complex, firing at police who were massed outside.

"They kept on lobbing grenades and firing indiscriminately on us 'til 1 a.m. (3:30 a.m. in Manila). The firing eased a little bit after that. We exchanged fire with the militants throughout," said Brigadier Raj Seetapathy, who headed the anti-terrorist force at the temple.

"They kept on moving about the temple premises shifting positions," he said. "Both of them were killed around five a.m."

The attack was the most serious since a Dec. raid on the Indian parliament by alleged Pakistan-based Islamic militants which triggered a military buildup between India and Pakistan and nearly led to war in June between the nuclear-armed rivals.

Tuesday's raid came just after polls closed in the second round of voting in state elections in Indian-ruled Kashmir.

Islamic separatist rebels have vowed to sabotage the polls in the disputed Himalayan region.

Indian security forces combed the building in search of hidden explosives and searched the two gunmen.

"There were about 600 people . . . Thank God I'm alive," said Gurumukh Palwani, 40, who escaped with his two children.

A Reuters reporter on the spot saw police pulling out a letter in Urdu from the pocket of one of the gunmen. Police said both men were carrying letters in Urdu.

The clean-shaven gunmen were also carrying dried fruits, sweets and Indian notes and coins in their pockets. *Reuters*

Bush seizes on Blair dossier to enlarge war case vs Iraq

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush seized on the presentation of a British intelligence dossier on Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as impetus for swift and bold action against Baghdad, which dismissed the report as insignificant.

The US leader, whose administration accuses Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein of developing weapons of mass destruction, again urged the US Congress to "act now to pass a resolution which will hold Saddam to account for a decade of defiance" of UN resolutions.

Later, at a political fundraiser, Bush said Saddam is worse to his own people than former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic was, seemingly trying to urge skeptical US allies in Europe to support action against Saddam as they did against Milosevic.

Bush said his speech to the UN earlier this month was to build a case for action against Saddam based on "the fact that he has weapons of mass destruction, the fact that he gassed his own people, the fact that he's terrorized his neighborhood, the fact that he has terrorized his own people much worse than Mr. Milosevic did."

US lawmakers have focused their debate on what they consider to be the open-endedness of the draft resolution sent last week to the bicameral legislature, which allows the president to "use all means" to "defend the national security interests of the United States against the threat posed by Iraq, and restore the international peace and security in the region."

Top opposition Democratic Senator Tom Daschle said lawmakers would likely reach a consensus by the weekend after working with the White House on amending the language of the resolution.

But, Daschle said, "by and large, Republicans and Democrats are likely to give the benefit of the doubt to the president."

The detailed study presented by Blair, produced by Britain's secretive Joint Intelligence Committee, failed to convince some wavering allies in both Europe and the Middle East.

In its dossier, Britain, the chief ally in Washington's pitch for action against Iraq, warned Baghdad could be only a year or two away from possessing a nuclear bomb.

SADDAM Hussein REUTERS

The report said Iraq could deploy chemical and biological weapons in no more than 45 minutes, stressing that Saddam "attaches great importance to possessing weapons of mass destruction (and) does not regard them only as weapons of last resort."

Baghdad dismissed the intelligence as nothing more than a way to galvanize support for military strikes and offered UN arms inspectors "unfettered access" to suspected weapons sites, presidential adviser Amer Saadi said.

Saadi advised Blair to pass his dossier to the UN commission in charge of Iraq's disarmament so the truth would be made known.

"We challenge any side to come up with evidence that we have resumed our activities in pursuing weapons of mass destruction," he said.

Blair's "conclusions that Iraq is engaged in the production of weapons of mass destruction are simply not true. His allegations are long, his evidence is short." Asian leaders, too, were unconvinced by the revelations, which analysts said highlighted no new information, and concluding their three-day Asia-Europe Meeting, highlighted the regions' differences with the United States. *AFP*

Israel ignores pressures to end Arafat siege

JERUSALEM—Israel on Tuesday shrugged off mounting pressure and a new UN resolution calling for an end to its siege of Yasser Arafat's headquarters, after staging a massive raid into Gaza that left nine Palestinians dead.

Calling the latest resolution unbalanced, Israel said it would continue to besiege Arafat's crumbling offices in the West Bank town of Ramallah until about 20 wanted people among the 250 men pinned down inside surrendered.

Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer told Israeli public radio: "We respect the United Nations, but it must realize that we will only apply its resolution when the other side puts an end to terrorism.

"We have the duty to assure the security of our citizens, and that is a right that no one will deprive us of."

Arafat, meanwhile, issued an appeal for the international community to ensure Israel implements the UN Security Council resolution, saying the Palestinian Authority was respecting its part of the deal.

"The Palestinian National Authority is conforming fully with the resolution and calls for the international community to force Israel to withdraw and lift the siege," he said, quoted by the official Palestinian news agency WAFA.

Arafat said "the unanimity of the Security Council and the US abstention are proof of the isolation of Israel's policies."

Israel's defiance of the Security Council was all the more pronounced since its main backer Washington not only abstained from the 14-0 vote, instead of vetoing the resolution, but later made a blunt criticism of the siege.

US President George W. Bush said the five-day-old blockade, sparked by two suicide bombings last week, was "not helpful" for Palestinian political and security reforms, but stopped short of calling on Israel to withdraw.

In response, Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu Rudeina told AFP, "We welcome the statement of Mr. Bush and we consider it in keeping with Resolution 1435." *AFP*

Pain-free recovery from surgery in offing

LOS ANGELES—Pain-free recovery from surgery is a contradiction in terms, but some doctors and eager-to-please drug companies say it could become possible with new techniques and innovative use of existing medicines.

"There should not be any post-operative pain. It is useless—we know what causes it and we know it limits bodily function," said Dr Mark Lema, chairman of anesthesiology and pain medicine at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York.

Pain-numbing narcotics such as morphine are still the standard of care after a trip to the operating theater, but alternatives are emerging as doctors and hospitals look to improve treatment and possibly cut costs at the same time.

Narcotics, which suppress pain signals to the brain, can disrupt normal activity, prolong hospital stays and lead to an uncomfortable, slow recovery. The side effects of these drugs—drowsiness, nausea, constipation, difficulty in breathing and potential addiction—are well known.

"In a lot of cases, it's not the surgery that most impacts the patient—it's the side effects of the narcotics they take afterward," said Dr Stephen Zimberg, a gynecologist at Cleveland Clinic Florida in Weston, Florida.

Lema suggests that giving patients anti-inflammatory drugs before surgery, such as Merck & Co.'s Vioxx, can curb pain by blocking pain pathways before, during and after an operation.

"There is a lot of evidence showing that we can block the deleterious effects of surgery by using circulating levels of coxibs," he said, using the generic term for the class of drugs.

Drugs can be combined with nerve-blocking anesthetics, such as the epidurals used to mute the pain of childbirth, or after surgery with self-contained devices that deliver a local anaesthetic directly to incision sites over a period of days.

In one study, 43 percent of hysterectomy patients given the ON-Q pain relief system, a balloon-shaped pump that drips a steady amount of anaesthetic through a "soaker hose" sewn inside an incision, did not need narcotics for pain after surgery, resulting in shorter hospital stays and lower overall costs.

"Our patients who had just received a hysterectomy were comfortably moving around, clearly showing us that they were experiencing real pain relief. Nearly all of them were ready to go home only a day after surgery," said Zimberg, lead investigator in the study.

The study of the device in hysterectomy patients showed that it cut overall costs by 30 percent. *Reuters*

DIWA
S T R I P N E W S

CEAP Confab Seeks Purpose in Education

This year's National Convention of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) kicked off yesterday with its theme, "Looking Within, Seeing Beyond: Process, Purpose and Passion in Catholic Education Today."

About 1,200 delegates have gathered in Cagayan de Oro City to thresh out issues that affect some 1,200 private Catholic school members. The conference ends tomorrow.

CEAP is a voluntary organization representing the interest of Catholic educational institutions in national and international fora.

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Recall results show Hagedorn winner

By Blanche S. Rivera and Dominique Monera-Tabora, Geraldforde Ticke
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

EDWARD Hagedorn, a three-term mayor of Puerto Princesa City, is back in power in his hometown as the Commission on Elections closed the controversial recall elections yesterday.

Hagedorn was leading incumbent mayor Dennis Socrates, whom barangay officials wanted to oust, by almost 3,000 votes as of the 3:45 p.m. Comelec official count.

Hagedorn garnered 20,238 votes compared to Socrates' 17,220. Businessman Vicente Sandoval, who had already run and lost to Socrates in the 2001 mayoral race, trailed with 13,241 votes.

The tally was final and represented votes cast in 308 precincts, according to Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco in a phone interview yesterday.

The Comelec, however, could not yet proclaim Hagedorn as the new Puerto Princesa mayor because of a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court.

Sandoval has filed a petition for disqualification against Hagedorn, saying the three-time mayor could no longer run for the same post because it would constitute his fourth consecutive term, which is not allowed by law.

The case had been dismissed by the Comelec's first division.

Tancangco said Socrates would continue to govern the city until the SC lifts the TRO and finally rules on the disqualification case against Hagedorn.

At least one man was arrested for alleged vote-buying and cheating by putting indelible ink on thumbs of some voters the night before the Sept. 24 elections to prevent them from casting their ballots.

Hagedorn was mayor of Puerto Princesa from 1992 to 2001. He ran for governor in 2001 but lost to incumbent Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes.

Barangay officials of Puerto Princesa were allegedly rallying behind Hagedorn when it convened a preparatory recall assembly to oust Socrates, whom they said had no respect for barangay leaders in the city.

Earlier yesterday, Hagedorn moved for the announcement of the final results.

George Erwin Garcia, Hagedorn's lawyer, filed a motion to the Board of Canvassers (BOC) to make a "public announcement of the final result of the canvass."

Garcia also said that they were asking the board to "proclaim the winner" because the board only has a faxed copy of the TRO.

"I don't have to show them an original copy," said BOC chair Jocelyn Postrado.

She said announcing the final result would be "tantamount to proclaiming the winner."

"I don't see any difference in the declaration of the result and the proclamation," she said.

Hagedorn expressed disappointment over the sudden decision of the Supreme Court to stop the proclamation.

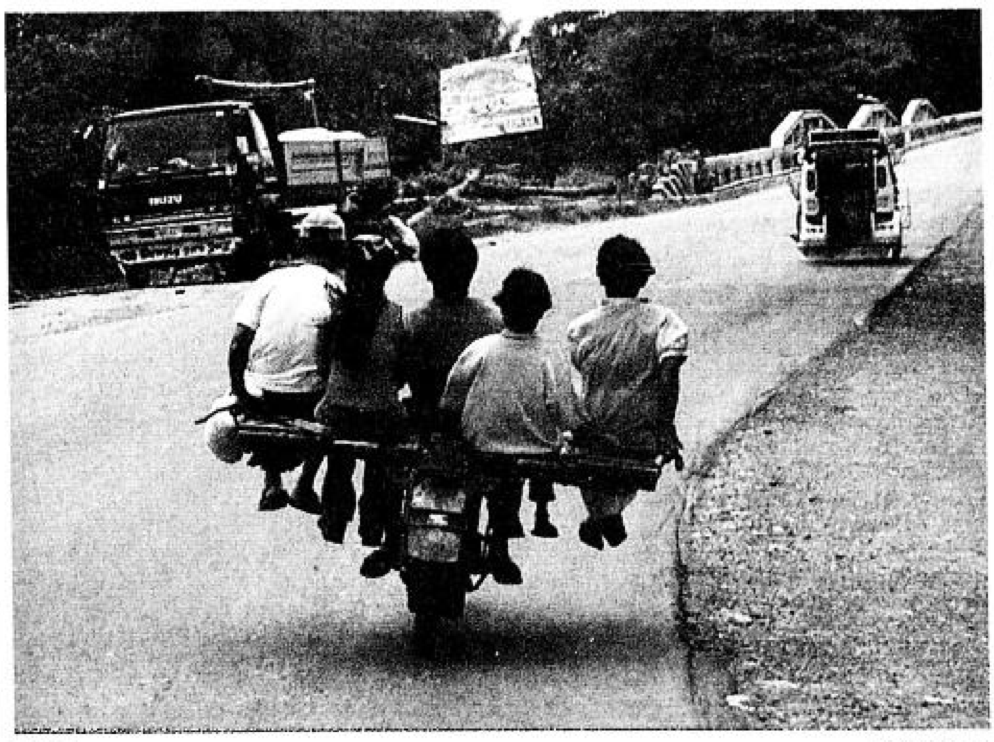
He said the decision was "very untimely" and many of his supporters felt betrayed.

During the canvassing of votes, supporters of Hagedorn trooped to the City Hall and stayed there overnight.

They said that they will stay there until the winner is proclaimed. "If they don't proclaim Hagedorn, we will mount a people power here," one supporter said in Filipino. "If Erap (Estrada) was ousted by people power, why can't a mayor be?" she added.

The issuance of the TRO two hours before the polling centers closed created confusion and disenfranchised hundreds of voters in the city. Many registered voters who have not yet voted did not proceed to polling centers after news of the TRO issuance was broadcast over local radio stations. Voters who heard of the TRO from second hand source thought that the recall election was cancelled. Teachers who served in previous elections noted that many cast their votes at the last hour.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said the decision to dismiss the disqualification case filed against Hagedorn "is a matter of interpretation of the law."



RIDE

EDWIN BACASMAS

It's called the "skylab," this contraption attached to a motorcycle which passes off for public transportation in Compostela Valley and elsewhere in Mindanao. It's a risky ride, but one that brings people to their destinations.

NBI disowns 2 men in kidnap, extortion

By Philip C. Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco clarified yesterday that the two men charged with extortion and kidnapping of five foreigners in Laguna were not connected with the bureau.

Wycoco also said that the services of all NBI confidential agents have been terminated effective Sept. 16.

Suspects Larry Ferrer, 29, of Barangay Patimbo, Sta. Cruz, Laguna, and Cesar Lacbay of Barangay Maytalang, Lumban, were charged with illegal arrest, car theft, and robbery for preying on two Australians, three New Zealanders, and two Filipinos, at the Pagsanjan Rapids Hotel on Sept. 16.

But Wycoco said that as early as July 16, Ferrer's designation as an NBI confidential agent was recalled.

"We found out that he had a string of criminal cases, including robbery, and so we immediately recalled his designation," Wycoco said.

Lacbay is not connected with bureau and does not appear in its roster, he added.

Wycoco added that on the day the foreigners were kidnapped, he also ordered the termination of all confidential agents.

These agents are considered as informants and are not paid for their services.

Wycoco said the bureau will again start recruiting agents in January next year.

"So please be warned that people claiming to be NBI CAs are misrepresenting themselves," Wycoco said.

He said CAs were ordered to surrender their IDs and "cease functioning."

He said recruits would be screened thoroughly.

The NBI is also investigating three regular agents who were given a mission order to investigate a Korean for illegal possession of firearms.

Operations at Dumaguete port return to normal as port agency takes over

By Alex V. Pal and Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Port operations at the piers 1, 2, and 3 in Barangay Looc have returned to normal after the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) took over the operations of the strike-paralyzed Cipres Stevedoring and Arrastre Inc. (CISAI) on Monday afternoon.

The takeover of the cargo-handling operation was in compliance with the memorandum issued by PPA general manager Al Cusi, said Manuel Gorme, PPA district manager for the Visayas.

The duration of the takeover would depend on when the labor row would be resolved by the labor department and other concerned government agencies, he added.

The members of the CISAI Employees Union-Associated Labor Union welcomed the takeover as they would be absorbed as workers, receiving the same benefits and salaries prior to the strike.

The management, on the other hand, appeared indifferent on the takeover. When asked to comment, CISAI lawyer Herbert Timtim only said the PPA is allowed to take over any port operation in the event of a strike.

He said the PPA got a copy of the CISAI payroll so it would not be difficult for the agency to know who were the employees of the arrastre and stevedoring firm.

Gorme said the PPA had offered to rent the CISAI equipment. If the management refused, Gorme said the PPA would use the equipment of other companies.

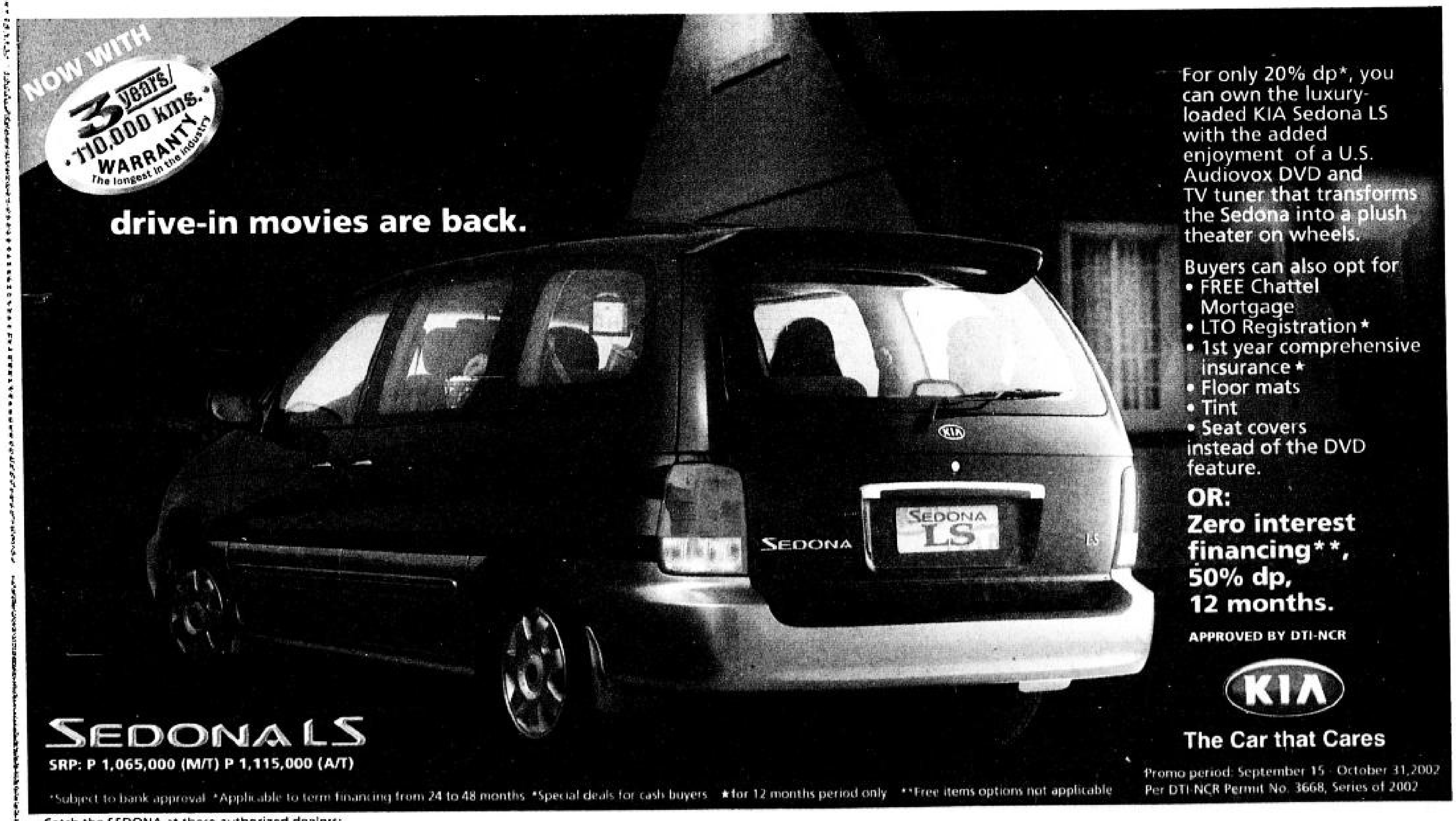
Cargo-handling operation was paralyzed after the CISAI workers went on strike on Sept. 20 to demand the full implementation of their Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Gorme said three vessels loaded with thousands of bags of cement consigned to the province could not be unloaded. Some 10,000 bags of rice from the National Food Authority were also kept inside the port premises, he added.

Last week perishable goods intended for different establishments here had to be returned to their ports of origin because no one would unload them. Some shipping firms had also decided not to bring in cargo to Dumaguete.

As the strike had affected the province's economy, Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz and Dumaguete City Mayor Agustin Perdices wrote to Cusi, asking him to order the local PPA to take over the port operations.

Under the PPA charter, Gorme said the agency is authorized to take over the operation of any port besieged by any work stoppage.



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ROUNDUP

Charges vs blast suspect

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police have filed charges of multiple frustrated murder against the suspect in the Aug. 15 blast that injured two sidewalk vendors here. Charged before the City Prosecutor's Office was Mohalidin Mama, 18, and a resident of FVR Village in Barangay Fatima. Mama, who was arrested here last week, was positively identified by the driver of a tricycle that he hired during his operation. Supt. Jorge Aquisap, acting city police chief, said the suspect had a companion when he lobbed the blasting cap of a fragmentation grenade near the public market on Aug. 15.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Attack on Globe foiled

DAVAO CITY—Alert security guards foiled an attack by New People's Army guerrillas on a telecommunications facility owned by Globe Telecom in Barangay Coronon in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur on Friday evening. Senior Supt. Samuel Navaja, Davao del Sur police director, said seven rebels tried to burn Globe's tower but fled when company guards noticed them. Later, soldiers from the Army's 25th Infantry Battalion arrived to reinforce the guards. Early this year, the NPA razed several telecommunication facilities in Compostela Valley.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gang member yields

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A member of a notorious kidnap-for-ransom gang operating in Central Mindanao yielded to police authorities on Monday. Central Mindanao Police director Chief Supt. Jose Dalumpines said Tandukan Indo Andal, 33, alias Commander Tony, was one of the main suspects in the 1995 kidnapping of Filipino-Chinese trader Pelsy Yaphuckon. Dalumpines said that before his surrender, Andal, who carried a bounty of P300,000, was the subject of an intense intelligence operation. Andal told reporters that he was just hired as a driver of the getaway vehicle used by the suspects after snatching Yaphuckon. Andal claimed that the kidnappers paid him P200 and ordered him to return to General Santos.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 NPA rebels slain

DAVAO CITY—Two suspected members of the communist New People's Army were killed in an encounter on Friday with anti-communist tribal warriors in the hinterlands of Talaingod, Davao del Norte, reports reaching the Southern Mindanao police here said Monday. The reports said the clash started when members of the Alsa Lumad chanced upon NPA rebels led by Commander Benjack of the Front Committee 52 in Barangay 31. Benjack's group was believed behind last year's death of former Talaingod Mayor Jose Libayao, one of the founders of Alsa Lumad. Meanwhile, a soldier was wounded when elements of the 72nd Infantry Battalion clashed with rebels in Kapalong, Davao del Norte also on Friday.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Love triangle blamed

DAVAO CITY—Police here said love triangle could be behind the death of a ranking official of the local office of a multi-national company. Petronito Polo, 44, chief of the wharf operation of Dole-Stanfilco here, was killed when unidentified men ambushed him and his live-in partner on Saturday. Sherly Joseph, Polo's alleged live-in partner, was wounded in the ambush, which occurred on the national highway in Panacan, Sasa District here. The couple was on their way to General Santos City. Senior Insp. Jose Esparcia, deputy commander of the Sasa police station, said the love triangle theory came out after Joseph, 33, allegedly told a hospital attendant at the Davao Medical Center that,it was her husband who shot them. Joseph and her husband have separated. But Esparcia said Joseph would not cooperate with investigators.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Heinous crime category

LEGAZPI CITY—The Albay provincial council has passed a resolution endorsing an earlier resolution of the Negros Occidental provincial council urging the House of Representatives and the Senate to enact a measure that classifies the smuggling of rice, corn, sugar and other basic commodities as a heinous crime. Resolution No. 0627 was endorsed by oversight committee chair Dondon Fernandez. Fernandez said smuggling is a form of economic sabotage because it deprives the government of taxes.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Albay austerity measure

LEGAZPI CITY—Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara recently directed all chiefs of the provincial capitol to cut down expenses due to the unexpected reduction in remittances of the internal revenue allotment (IRA) from the national government. The monthly IRA remittance to the province had been reduced by the Department of Budget and Management from P37 million to P30 million or a deficiency of P7.5 million per month, effective this month. Bichara urged all heads of offices to limit their expenditures to generate savings to avoid budget shortfall or deficit.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

P2.5M lost to snatchers

CABANATUAN CITY—Three men snatched from a couple in San Jose City a bag and a box containing assorted jewelry worth P2.5 million. Gabriel Alcantara and his wife Julita, who owns a pawnshop, and their niece were waiting for their driver 7:15 a.m. when three men in a car stopped and aimed their guns at them. One of them immediately grabbed the bag and box of the couple. The couple's driver arrived while the robbers were boarding their car. He tried to grab the gun of one of the robbers but was unsuccessful. The gun went off and hit a tricycle driver, Anthony Marzan, who was declared out of danger. The suspects' car was found abandoned three hours later in another barangay in San Jose.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC KIDNAPPING

Cops say ransom paid for freed boy

ANGELES CITY—Kidnappers believed based in Tarlac City released on Tuesday night a nine-year-old boy after his father, a politician-businessman here, paid P700,000 in ransom, a police official confirmed on Wednesday.

The boy, held for 42 hours since 6:30 a.m. last Monday, was freed at 11:20 p.m. Tuesday (not Monday as a newspaper, not the INQUIRER, reported), according to Senior Supt. Angelito Pacia, Angeles City police director.

Pacia said the abductors left the boy at the Total gas station in Barangay Pulong Maragul here. He said the pay-off happened somewhere in Tarlac City.

The kidnappers, he said, initially demanded P3 million from the family. A relative of the boy said the family did not have that much money and pleaded with the kidnappers to lower the amount.

Negotiations for the release of the boy began late Monday night, it was learned.

According to Pacia, the boy showed no signs of physical injuries or immediate indications of trauma. He was abducted in front of his family's house in a village just outside the Clark Special Economic Zone.

The boy, whose family owns a hotel, said he was taken to a drive-in and confined there during the rest of his ordeal. By the boy's description, the place he was taken to was somewhere in Tarlac City.

"The boy is very safe and undergoing debriefing," Pacia told the INQUIRER.

While the parents chose to pay ransom, they coordinated with police officials to ensure the safe release of their son, he said.

"We discouraged them from paying ransom. But in kidnapping-for-ransom cases, it's always the family of the victim who makes the decision. In this case, however, the family tapped the police to ensure the safe release of their boy," he said.

He said the police operations, which ended at past 6 a.m. Wednesday, provided adequate leads on the identities and whereabouts of the kidnappers.

He said one spoke in Kapampangan and had a complete background of the family's businesses. The rest spoke in Tagalog, investigators said, citing the initial results of the boy's debriefing session.

Lawmen also recovered the suspects' getaway vehicle, a car with plate number UGV-697 and rented from a local car rental company. The car contained items that provided leads to the kidnap gang.

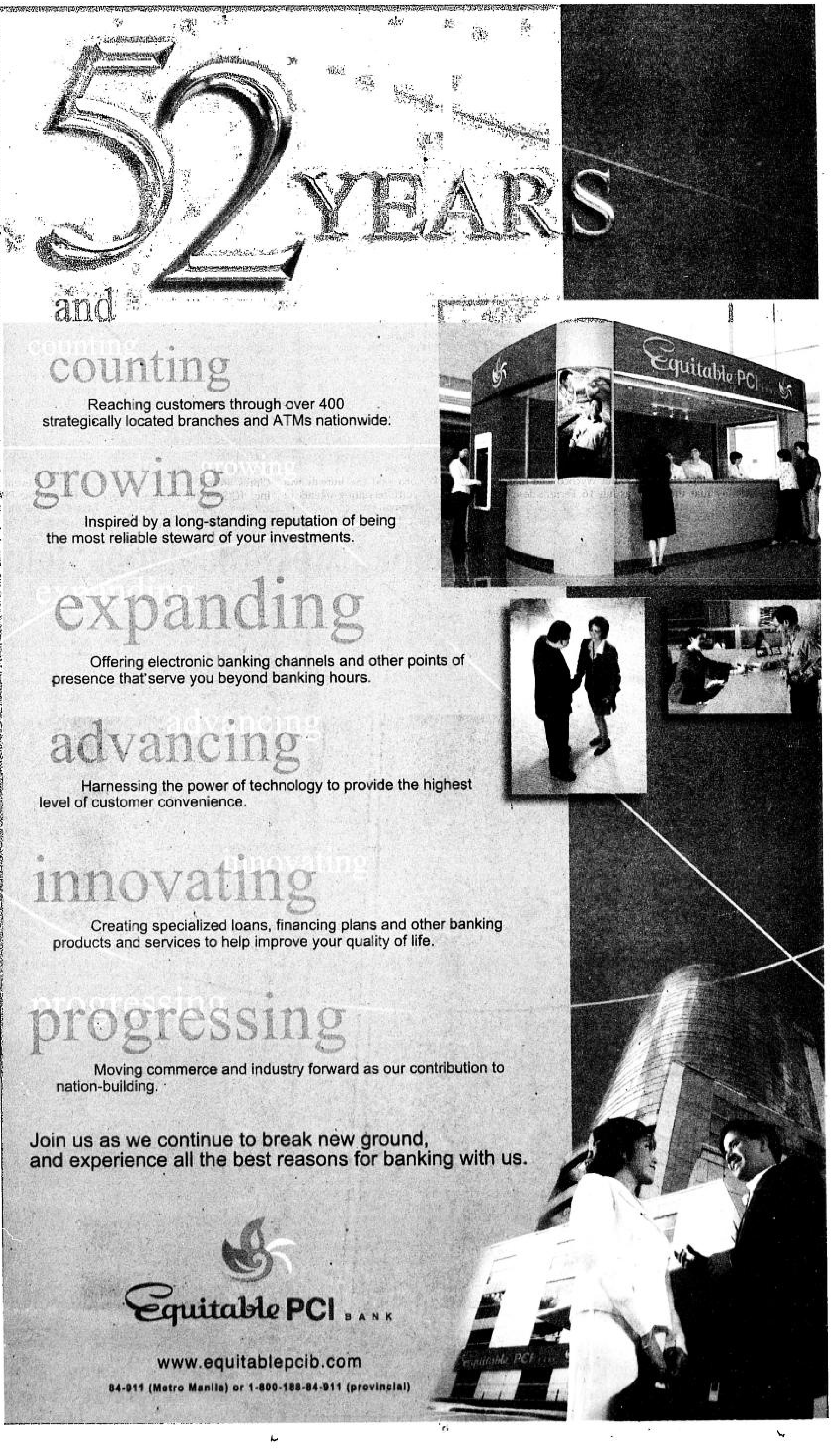
The boy was the third known victim of abductions this year in Pampanga, the home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The first victim was Jay-jay Tanhueco, 14, of Chevalier School, who was abducted in 1991. A few months later, Tanhueco was found dead inside a steel barrel dumped in Batangas City.

Five men, one of them his relative, were arrested and now serving life imprisonment sentences.

Monday's abduction came after retail trader Ricardo Tan was kidnapped here last February and after poultry owner Amelita Yang-Cesar was abducted in January. The National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) arrested Cesar's kidnappers in Tarlac City.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk



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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

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From blast fishing to seaweed farming

By Michael B. Jaucian
Rapu-Rapu, Albay

BARANGAY Galicia in Rapu-Rapu, an island municipality of Albay, is a three-hour ride by motorized outrigger boat from the Tabaco City port.

From afar, Galicia is a quiet and sleepy coastal village. But at one time, residents and marine creatures had never been at peace because of loud explosions from the sea. Most of the fishermen in the village used to be engaged in illegal and destructive fishing, especially dynamite fishing, and ignored the law as long as they caught fish and earned, even just for the day. Neither did they care if marine life was destroyed.

Today, the fisherfolk make a living through seaweed farming and creating seaweed products, like pickles, *leche flan*, candies, marshmallows and, lately, seaweed noodles.

Change

Seaweed farming in Galicia started in 1995 as a jointly funded project of the Bicol Small Business Institute Inc. (BSBI) and the Philippine Australian Community Assistance Program.

Dr. Ofelia S. Vega, BSBI president and former dean of the Bicol University College of Fisheries in Tabaco, said the livelihood project was aimed at environmental protection. It was introduced as a tool to enlighten the community about the disastrous effects of illegal fishing methods and discourage the use of dynamite and cyanide in fishing.

Vega said the villagers were convinced that if they did not participate in the proposed alternative means of livelihood, those engaged in illegal fishing could become the first victims of blast fishing and the instruments in destroying the future of their children.

Confronted with this reality, they formed an organization called the Kaunlaran Pangkabuhayan Association of Galicia (KPAG). Initially, the group had 70 beneficiaries, half of them women. Each member was given P3,000 to start the project.

At first, the fisherfolk were pessimistic. It took them three years before their enterprise started to boom, according to Myrna Pereyra, a social worker of BSBI who had stayed in the village for three years to supervise the seaweed production.

Typhoons and man-made disasters destroyed the seaweed plantations and swept almost P1 million down the drain. Pereyna said most of the seaweeds were either washed away by the typhoons or were contaminated as a result of dynamite and cyanide fishing, thus rendering them unfit for market and consumption.

Unexpected

No one believed that the seaweed farming will be an effective and sustainable form of livelihood for the community who had depended on destructive fishing for years. But with the persistence of the BSBI and its determination to heighten environmental awareness, the fisherfolk soon embraced the program.

"When our barangay was chosen by the BSBI as recipient of the project, the old destructive way of fishing stopped," Ramon Berdin, KPAG president, said.

Even though seaweed farming is very hard, it is worthy and promising, Berdin said. Most of the beneficiaries are very happy and thankful because the livelihood program improved the life of each member and most of the members were able to send their children to school, he said.

The project also helped them build houses with concrete instead of light materials.

Tranquilino Bombita Jr., Galicia barangay chair, said that when seaweed farming was introduced, all forms of illegal fishing were checked as most of the residents were very busy planting seaweed.

If there are people still engaged in blast fishing, he will have them imprisoned, Bombita warned.

Igles Betito, who used to be engaged in illegal fishing, praised the project for being a great help in raising his family. He now earns more from seaweed farming than his earlier trade, and has been able to send his children to high school and college.

"I don't care if the heat of the sun will turn me black as long as I earn in a legal way. And besides, the sea has served as my office," Betito said. His family stays at sea from 6 a.m. until 5 p.m., cleaning seaweeds.

"If the seaweeds are not cleaned, they will get contaminated," Betito explained.

Training

In 1999, eight KPAG members attended a seminar on seaweed farming on Olango Island in Cebu, sponsored by the Foundation for a Sustainable Society Inc.

Glenn Gonzaga of the Coastal Resource Management Project said the fishermen were able to learn the *balsa* and *bagnet* methods of planting seaweed.

They visited the fish sanctuary and seaweed farm off Gilutongan Island and attended lectures on the importance of the environment and the preservation of coastal resources.

According to Berdin, the seminar was really helpful because the fishermen were able to grasp the importance of the environment and the preservation of the coastal resources through "friendly fishing." They also had a chance to interact with local fishermen who were experts in seaweed farming technologies, he said.

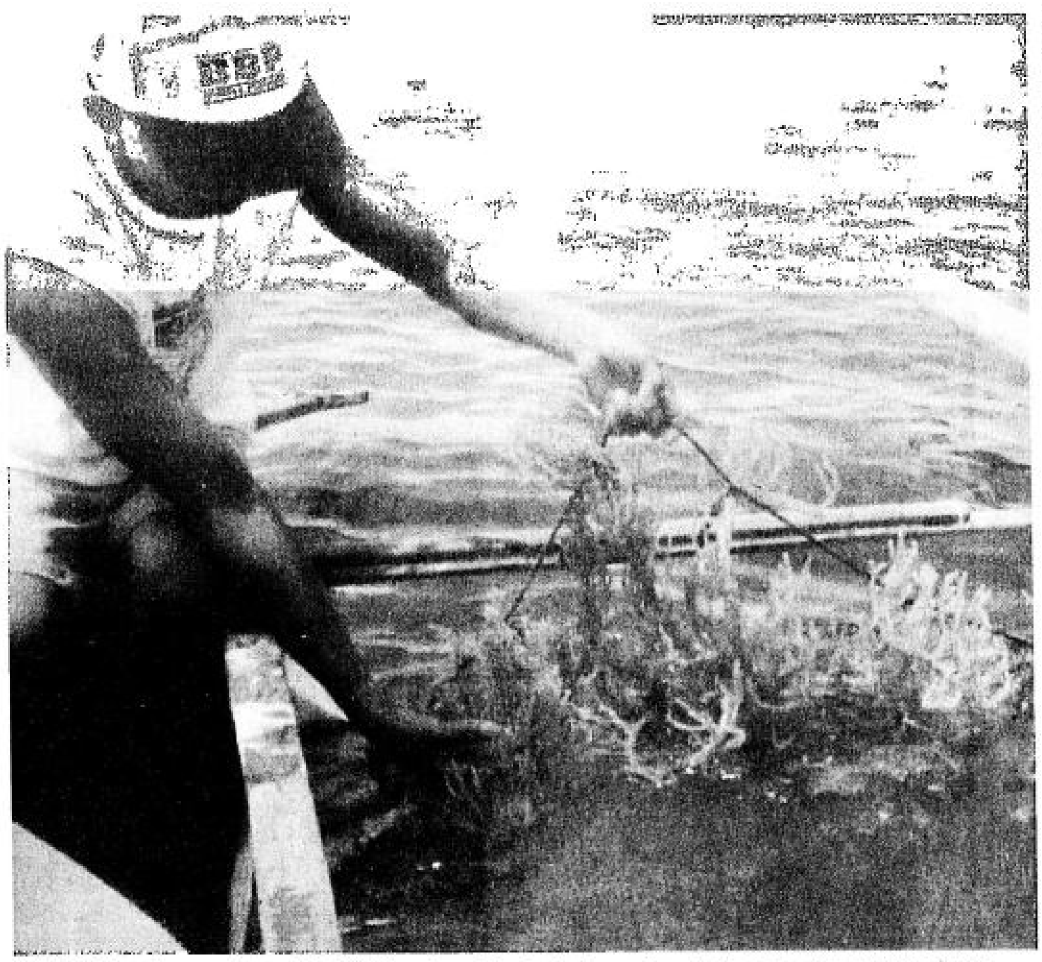
With assistance from the Department of Labor and Employment, several fishermen also attended a training seminar on seaweed food processing. The DOLE also bought equipment, utensils, ingredients and other materials for making seaweed products.

Although the KPAG can now make seaweed noodles, it has not yet endeavored to produce in commercial quantity. "The association makes noodles only when there are orders because the process is tedious and time-consuming, and the product gets spoiled easily," Berdin said.

The most sought-after product is the seaweed pickle, which is already out in the local market.

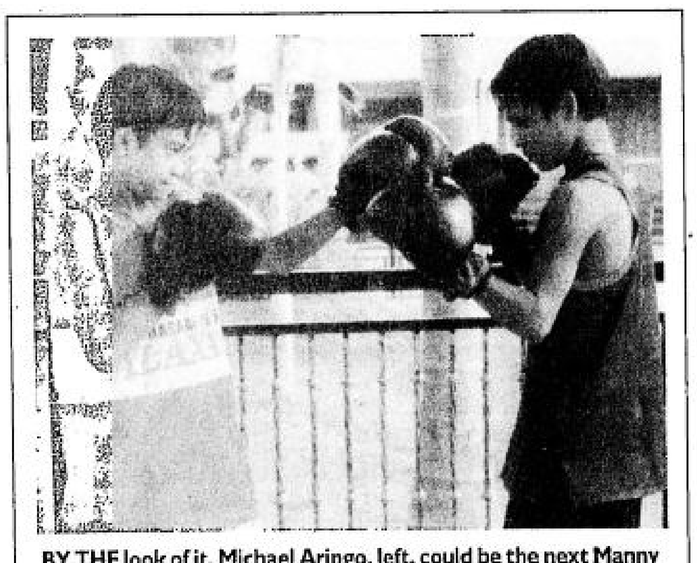
"We want the seaweed products exported (so we can) gain more profit," Berdin said.

Many foreigners are also interested in seaweed farming, but Vega said she would not allow them to compete with the local fishermen. "It is only for the community and we will never allow the fisherfolk to become slaves or workers of foreigners," she said.



RAMON Berdin, president of Galicia Kaunlaran Pangkabuhayan Association Inc., demonstrates how seaweeds grow.

PING PERALTA



BY THE look of it, Michael Aringo, left, could be the next Manny Pacquiao of Bicol.

FRANK LAGUILLES

Boy, 12, boxes way to education

By Carlos Santos Gegantoca
Contributor

TALENT scouts need not look far for a young boxing sensation. Michael G. Aringo, 12, a Grade 4 pupil at the Albay Central School in Legazpi City, is just around the corner.

Mike, as his friends call him, has been defeating all his boxing opponents in Albay and even those coming from as far as Catanduanes to Masbate.

"Most of his victories have been earned via technical knockout," says Rudy A. Aringo, the unassuming and soft-spoken father of Mike. Rudy himself was a regional featherweight boxing champion in his younger days.

By beating all his opponents (non-weight division of 26 kilos or 57 pounds), Mike has amassed fees that are substantial enough for a boy like him to sustain his education. His father and his mother, Shirley Grizo, of Juban, Sorsogon, are financially handicapped.

"In spite of the fact that he is a seasoned young boxer, he is polite and well-behaved in the classroom," says Evelyn Niebla, his teacher. "He is not a show-off and is kind to his classmates."

Mike has been boxing for the past three years, starting out at the age of 9. He is the fifth of seven children.

Early morning, he negotiates the three-kilometer distance from his village of Pinaric to the Bicol University sports ground, his favorite sports haunt, and practices with a punching bag or speedball.

Judging from the way Mike has fought and won over taller and heftier opponents and emerging victorious, it is not far-fetched to say that Lady Luck will push him up the educational ladder through boxing, his first love.

The author is a retired professor of Bicol University in Legazpi City and is the president of the Albay-Legazpi Press Association.

Book extols Bicolanos' faith, unites rivals

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Naga City

A COFFEE table book launched in Naga City on Sept. 19 has been considered a milestone in portraying the unique religiosity of Bicolanos, even in the Age of Information Technology.

The publication also united local political rivals for the first time, adding significance to the region's nine-day fiesta this year after the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the coronation of its patroness in 1999, the Jubilee year in 2000, and the 50th anniversary last year of the Archdiocese of Caceres--the seat of its Church.

Thus, the power of devotion to the Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia or Ina, the patroness of Bicol, was believed to have worked anew.

The book, "Ina and the Bikol People: A Journey of Faith," was launched as part of the celebration of the regional feast on Sept. 13-22. Three political rivals delivered introductory speeches during the event.

Oneness

After more than two decades, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis R. Villafuerte, former education secretary Raul S. Roco and Naga Mayor Jesse Robredo shook hands and sat together comfortably -in the front row. Their exchange of cordiality was seen as symbolic of the oneness of local Catholics in their devotion to the Ina.

Villafuerte spoke of culture and governance and cited the publication of the coffee table book for its very important contribution to the Bicol heritage.

The pioneering effort of the Archdiocese of Caceres to document the history of the Bicolanos and their devotion to the Ina also popularized the people's religious identity for the whole world to understand, he said.

Completed in three years, the book is a 204-page composition in three chapters printed in high-quality glossy paper. It traces the origin of the Bicolanos' faith in God, their joys and blessings, and their hopes and dreams.

At the helm of the project was Fr. Wilmer Tria, with lawyer Jose Maria Carpio as main writer, Dr. Bobby Mendoza as chief photographer, Prof. Danilo Gerona as historical researcher, and other local researchers, writers and photographers as contributors.

Devotion

Presented in vivid pictures and easy-to-read accounts, the coffee table book--the first to dwell on Bicol's religiosity--tries to define the people's faith in God and devotion to the Ina from the pre-Christian period to contemporary times.

Looking at the photographs, one can sense a conscious attempt to capture hints of God's power and His presence. Among the photographs are an early morning scene of serenity at the centuries-old Minor Seminary, the life that persists near the crater of the Mayon Volcano or the majestic past of an imposing church ruin.

Spontaneity and orderliness are impressed in a photograph of rows of outrigger boats that follow a pattern of shades of blue.

Portraits of poverty are captured with colors that invoke hope rather than hopelessness and anger, while simple people reflect contentment even in their rugged and labored looks.

Tria said the book concept was inspired by the Marian devotion of the Bicolanos.

Roco spoke of his personal devotion to the Ina, especially in times of adversity, in his testimony of answered prayers every time he asked for help. One such moment, he said, was when he called up his 85-year-old mother in Naga to pray for the Ina while he was waiting for news on the fate of his wife Sonia, who was trapped beneath the rubble of a hotel in Baguio City during the 1991 earthquake.

Another story happened in January 1996 when the boat that his family rented capsized near the shore going to El Nido in Palawan. He said he prayed to the Ina to save his granddaughter, who went underwater. His granddaughter was safely recovered.

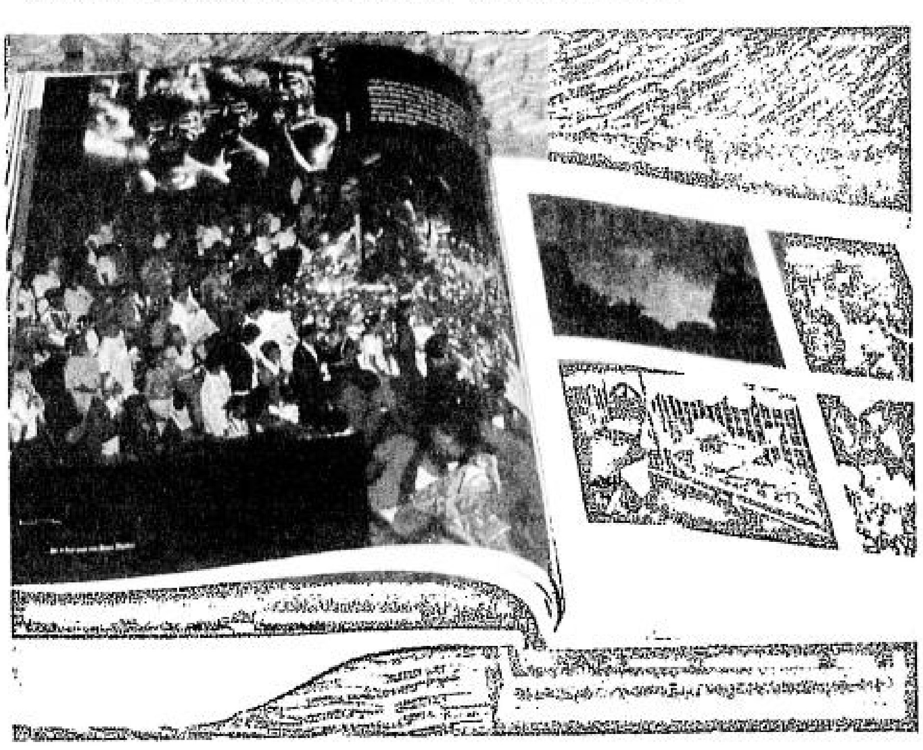
'Traslacion'

Roco's accounts were similar to those of hundreds of thousands devotees who flocked to Naga last Saturday to pay homage to their patroness at the culmination of the regional fiesta.

For one, the tradition of *traslacion* (transfer procession) of the Ina's image from the Basilica Minore to the Metropolitan Cathedral, which takes place on the first day of the regional feast, began in the 17th century to check the spread of a cholera epidemic. After the epidemic miraculously stopped, the image was returned to its original residence across the river in a festive, fluvial procession.

Today, the city government is exerting all efforts to live up to a name worthy to be called the homeplace of the Ina or "Maogmang Lugar" (Happy Place).

Mayor Robredo said most of the vices and illegal activities in Naga have been eradicated and social services expanded to make the city a happy place where the Ina's blessings and graces are showered.



THE COFFEE table book documents Bicol's unrelentless religiosity.

JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

Burglars . . .

From page A1

get into the house of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' elder daughter the other night and made off with her new Nokia 7650 hand phone with built-in camera, her handbag containing credit cards and about P2,000 in cash, her son Michael's wallet containing his P300 allowance, and his Omega watch.

"It's a great wake-up call for me," Marcos said yesterday, sheepishly admitting that her household was completely unaware that a burglary was in progress between 8 and 9 p.m. while she and two of her three sons, Michael and Matthew, 17 and 13, were having dinner on the ground floor.

"That's the dumbest thing in the world because at that time, I was lax with my security," she added.

Earlier, a member of Marcos' staff identified as Freddie Estillone went to the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit to report that the lawmaker's house in White Plains Subdivision, Quezon City, had been burglarized. He said pieces of jewelry were also among the items stolen.

Police investigators are looking into the possibility of an inside job, and are still questioning the subdivision's security guards as well as members of Marcos' household.

Marcos told reporters that the burglars managed to get into the master bedroom and her children's room, both on the third floor, and that she was unaware of what was happening because the television set was turned up loud.

She said one of her neighbors was also robbed that same night.

Now, Perez can eat Wang's moon cakes

From page A1

come friends and it's over. We're going to forget about it," Wang told reporters.

"I think both of us expressed regret, comparatively speaking. What happened between us is a trivial matter," the Chinese ambassador said. Wang said the Philippines and China had agreed that the case of the Chinese fishermen would be solved "in a friendly way."

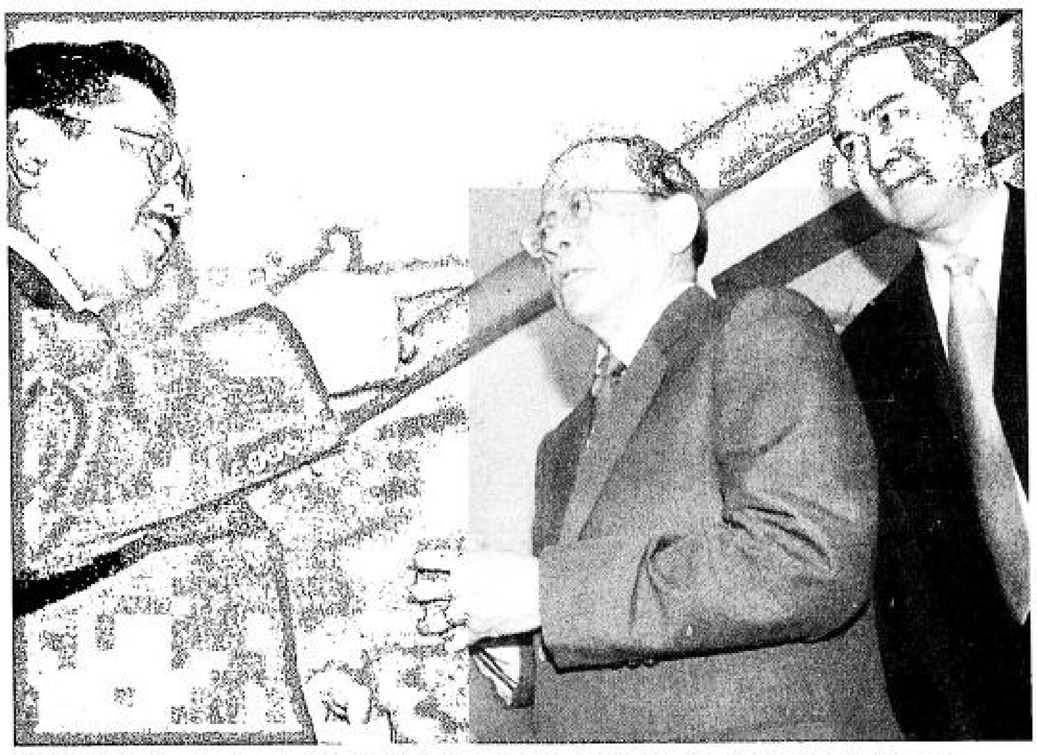
"We have agreed to resume the dialogue on the issue and we'll have to wait and see," he said.

In a letter to the DFA, Perez said: "I wish to thank the Chinese ambassador for his statement and expression of regret for the incident last Friday."

"In order to foster Philippine-Chinese bilateral relations and in acknowledgment of the efforts of the DFA, I am accepting the gesture of the Chinese ambassador and declare that I bear no personal grudge against him," Perez said.

But at a news conference, Perez said he had not withdrawn his request to the DFA to declare Wang persona non grata despite the statement of regret from Wang. The DFA has turned down Perez's request.

A DFA source said Perez did not want to withdraw the request pending a written apology from Wang. The Chinese foreign ministry, however, frowned on the idea. With Perez acceding to the decision of the DFA, the department ruled against granting his request to ban Wang from the country.



TAKE 2. This photo tells a story different from the smiling faces on page 1. Justice Secretary Perez, Undersecretary Baja and Ambassador Wang are all business as they try to thresh out the problem that threatens to blast relations between the two countries.

In his letter, Perez said he was willing to resume the DOJ's meetings with the Chinese Embassy for the purpose of assuring the fishermen's rights under the Philippine justice system. "I do wish to emphasize, however, that the final decision on these matters lies with our courts," he said.

Most of the fishermen were arrested over the past six months for illegal fishing at the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park off Palawan.

Fines, trial

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño told reporters that Wang agreed to have the fishermen pay the fines and plead guilty at their arraignment scheduled for Friday.

The fishermen have been asked to pay a fine of P2,000 each for allegedly taking endangered corals and sea turtles. The group will also be asked to pay a fine of at least $50,000 for alleged poaching, Zuño said. They also face prison sentences of at least six months. But officials will likely consider that they have already served jail time given their long detention while awaiting trial, Zuño said.

Zuño said the DOJ would push for trial if the Chinese fishermen did not pay the fines. "I instructed our prosecutors to take pictures of all the crew so that if they come back, they would be dealt with," he said. "If they commit the same violation they will be considered recidivist and will be dealt with hardly."

Baja said the order for the release of the Chinese fishermen was expected to be handed down at the arraignment on Friday.

"We are targeting their release over the weekend. There must be a rendition of judgment of the court before the executive could even intervene. As soon as they enter the plea of guilty, that's when backchanelling begins," he said.

The allegations of poaching and illegal fishing against the Chinese fishermen were discussed by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople and Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jixuan, who met on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting in Copenhagen.

"He (Tang) assured me that they are improving the management and supervision of their fishermen so that there will be no further violations of Philippine laws," Ople said in a statement issued in Manila.

Wang and Perez's reconciliation happened in time for a Philippine visit of Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian, who is to arrive in Manila later yesterday. *With a report from AP*

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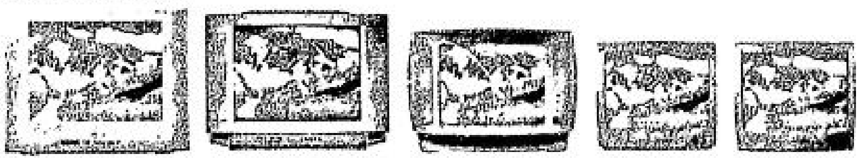


Malay judge in rape of Pinay condemned

From page A1

peared voluntary "just like husband and wife."

He said neither woman pushed the constable away or screamed, adding there was no medical evidence of bruises, the women were married, had children, and voluntarily took their clothes off.

Constable Razali Pilen, 25, was charged in February with raping a 23-year-old Filipino and a 24-year-old Indonesian who were held as illegal immigrants.

Four women's groups—All Women's Action Society, Sisters In Islam, Women's Aid Organization and the Women's Candidacy Initiative—condemned the judge's "insensitive comments" and said he failed to consider the element of fear and intimidation.

"It is highly disturbing when a learned person does not understand the dynamics of rape or rape victims, and with the bias, decides the fate of women," they said in a joint statement.

"We are also disheartened that the rape myth is still well and alive and being perpetuated by the very authorities involved in the carrying out of justice."

The fact that the women were illegal immigrants should not affect the trial but help the judge understand the degree of compliance on their part, they said.

"We, and certainly women in Malaysia, need to have our faith restored that our criminal justice system is just and fair. Otherwise victims of sexual assault will continue to be silenced and denied justice."

Rights group Suaram said the "callous judgment" could encourage similar violations and "give a carte blanche to police officers to abuse their position and authority."

Attorney General Abdul Gani Patail has instructed his officers to file an appeal in the High Court against the verdict.

Razali's case comes against the background of an outcry in the Philippines over the alleged rape by Malaysian police of a 13-year-old Filipino girl ahead of her deportation in a recent crackdown on illegal immigrants.

Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo wrote to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad earlier this month to express her "personal outrage and that of the Filipino people" over the alleged rape.

Mahathir pledged swift action over Ms Macapagal's complaint.

AFP

WELL-SECURED: President Macapagal-Arroyo is well covered by her security force as she practices on the surfboard in Siargao, Surigao del Norte. The last time she rode the waves was during her college days more than 30 years ago. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

German firm . . .

From page A1

dent Macapagal-Arroyo, which was not in power when the original contract was signed, have made the project an albatross for Fraport management and its shares.

The company is currently negotiating with the government to get out of the project completely. But the option of selling its stake to the Philippine government for $400 million, which would cover Fraport's exposure, has been downplayed by government officials in recent weeks after it was first mentioned as an option last month.

The company said before there was a risk of a write-off of its investment in the project. A spokesperson could not say, however, what amount would be written off if that became the final decision.

Fraport's exposure to the project by the end of June was placed at $377.9 million. That included cash and guarantees, a spokesperson said.

Fraport is 18.4 percent owned by the German state, 32.1 percent by the local state of Hesse, 20.5 percent by the city of Frankfurt, and 29 percent by institutional and private investors. The company went public over a year ago to raise money for its expansion plans at its Frankfurt hub, which is continental Europe's largest airport in terms of passengers and freight.

Endler said his group would "escalate" its efforts to solve the "political" problems with help from the German government.

President Macapagal has formed a committee to renegotiate the Piatco contract, which is allegedly overpriced and disadvantageous to the government.

In Manila, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel yesterday questioned the authority of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Strategic Affairs (OPASP) to propose a government takeover of the Naia 3.

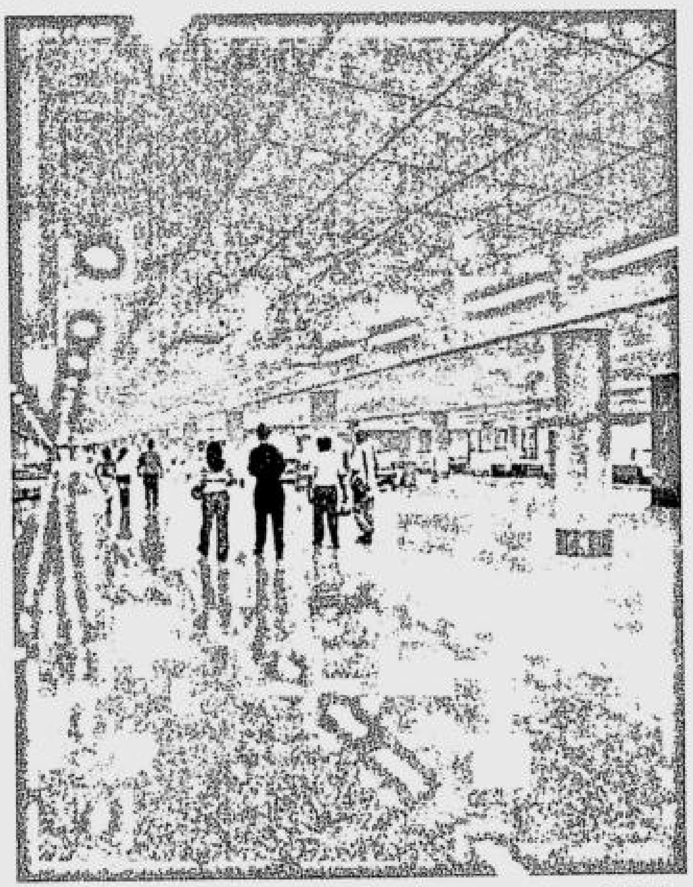
Under Executive Order No. 79 creating the OPASP, the presidential adviser on strategic projects is merely given the "mandate to oversee and supervise the effective and timely implementation and completion of strategic projects as the President may assign," Pimentel said.

He said the EO did not give specific powers to the presidential adviser to review and to propose revisions to contracts already approved by the proper authorities, "much more undertake a takeover."

"Certainly it did not give the OPASP authority to cause delays in government projects," Pimentel said in a statement.

He said the OPASP was created to ensure the effective and timely implementation of specific strategic projects. "The office was created because of the serious delays encountered by some strategic government projects, as noted by the EO itself."

Pimentel said Secretary Gloria Tan-Cliamaco, the presidential adviser on strategic projects, "has no authority to propose government takeover of a project nor has the authority to subject government contracts to review and revisions after these have already been reviewed and approved by the government institutions legally empowered to do so." *Reports from Reuters in Germany and Rocky Nazareno in Manila*



INSIDE view of the 97-percent complete but very controversial Naia 3 Terminal. ROMY HOMILLADA

Mideast row good for RP tourism—Gordon

From page A1

States and the threat of war against Iraq have made tourists reluctant to travel long-haul, he told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

The economic recession in Japan is also helping because "the Japanese can't travel to Europe because it's too expensive," while others "don't want to stray too far," he said.

And, while "China has hit the travel bug," many of its tourists are still reluctant to travel too far because of budget or language considerations, he said.

Tourist arrivals in the Philippines fell 5.3 percent last year to 1.8 million because of a spate of kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf bandits, which seized 20 tourists, including three Americans, two of whom were later killed.

But arrivals from Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore have been "growing dramatically," by up to 40 percent in the case of the Koreans, who come to the Philippines on honeymoon and for the beaches, Gordon said.

"We have 60 percent of the world (population) here," Gordon said, referring to the Asian region.

GORDON: There's always a silver lining

He said the Philippines would target its tourism promotion budget at millions of Chinese travelers, the 7.3 million Filipinos who have emigrated principally to North America and at the untapped tourist market from India.

Tourist arrivals should grow by about 100,000 people this year and hit double-digit expansion to at least 2.1 million in 2003, he said.

Gordon suggested the scale of the law and order problem in the Philippines was being exaggerated by the media, citing the case of Spain which has been cashing in on tourist dollars despite a violent separatist guerrilla movement in its Basque region.

"We're trying to fix the problem," he said.

To improve safety for tourists, the government was making a computer file of registered taxi drivers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and adding new interpreters in Asian languages, particularly Korean, Gordon said.

The scheduled opening of the $500-million Naia 3 terminal in November should also help ease congestion, he said.

Gordon also called for the selective opening of Philippine skies to foreign carriers, particularly in key routes that cannot be served adequately by Philippine Airlines (PAL) and the other domestic carriers.

"Where PAL doesn't fly, we should allow international airlines," he said.

Roxas

Another official who doesn't seem worried about the fallout from a US-Iraq war, is Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas.

Roxas said Monday that factory managers' fears of impending US military action against Iraq might actually help the Philippines attain its 4-percent export growth target.

He said companies were "stacking up their inventories to hedge against inflationary pressures being brought about by a number of factors, among them the escalating tension between Iraq and the US and fears of oil price increases."

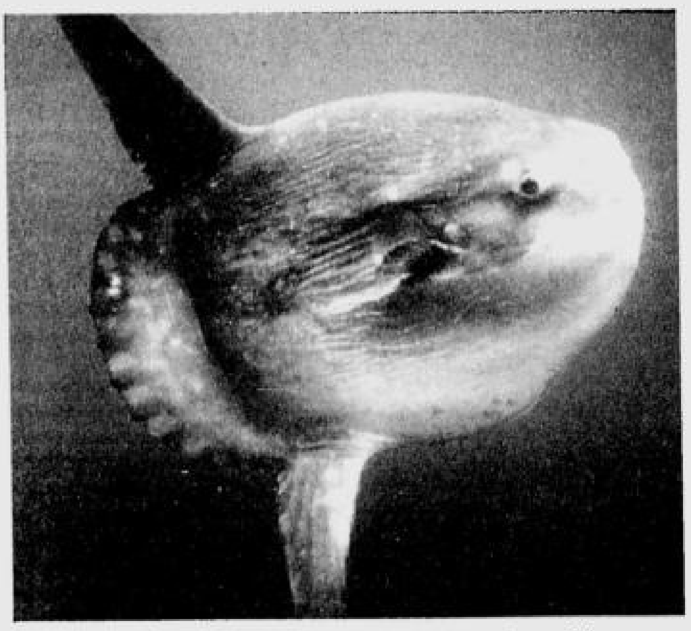
Roxas said demand had increased for digital signal processors, the Philippines' main semiconductor product.

Electronics components make up 68 percent of the Philippines' merchandise exports.

The government upgraded its 2002 export target to 4 percent earlier this year, compared to a flat projection, after a 15.6-percent plunge to $32.1 billion last year amid simultaneous recessions in the United States and Japan, its two main export markets.

Digital signal processors are universal components of electronic products like mobile phones, which have low-cash outlays and limited life spans.

Exports grew 6.9 percent in the year to July, and Roxas said he expected the August figure to maintain this pace. *AFP*



THE SUNFISH, also called Mola mola, is considered one of the rarest and strangest looking fishes in the sea. NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Rare fish found in Iligan City

From page A1

The fish had no external wounds in the body, according to aquatic scientists from the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology. Its stomach, however, was empty, prompting them to conclude that it may have died of an illness.

When they skinned the sunfish, the scientists found that it bore 19 liters of eggs. Reference books say that a female sunfish is capable of laying about 300 million eggs per breeding season.

Ronaldo Rivera, 42, of Barangay Santiago, said he was surprised to see the creature when he went out to fish.

He had earlier found a wounded, meter-long spinner dolphin which he buried despite the prodding of his neighbors to butcher it.

The rare find attracted many local residents, including SPO2 Rogelio Yancha of the city police force, who convinced Rivera not to butcher it as what happened to another sunfish caught here about a year ago. Yancha fetched the MSU-IIT scientists to examine the fish.

Information from the website www.oceanlight.com described the ocean sunfish as "the world's largest known bony fish." It distinguished the species from sharks and rays which, it said, "are cartilaginous, not bony."

At least one sunfish has been recorded to weigh over 3,000 pounds and individuals reach three meters from fin tip to fin tip have been seen, it said.

The MSU scientists said the latest find had a vertical height of 2.5 meters from dorsal fin to ventral fin. In her book, "Guide to Philippine Flora and Fauna," Prudencia V. Conlu reported a 1.5-meter long female sunfish being caught in the Philippines.

"The fish is found in all oceans in tropical and temperate climes, and is known to eat jellyfish and probably small fishes and algae. In the eastern Pacific, *Mola mola* is normally found from British Columbia to South America, although in El Niño events, it has been recorded as far north as Alaska," according to the Oceanlight website.

The ocean sunfish has been described as having quite a short caudal fin that acts like a rudder. It is often covered with small parasites, and will approach drifting seaweeds and other floating objects to remove the parasites. It is sometimes observed breaching the ocean surface and landing with a splash, perhaps in an attemp to dislodge the parasites.

The mouth is suited for slurping gelatinous zooplankton, its principal food source, the website said.

It is common for the fins to be mistaken for those of sharks when the fish swim at the surface. They are often seen basking flat on the ocean surface, nearly motionless, a "thermoregulation" behavior that does not necessarily indicate that they are sick or injured.

Molas' color ranges from dark gray to white, with many variations in mottling and spots. The young ones may appear "shiny."

PEA board goes on leave

From page A1

and Sulficio Tagud Jr. Deputy general manager Theron Lacson has been designated officer in charge-general manager.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz, who was earlier instructed by Ms Macapagal to investigate the alleged scam, inhibited himself from the case. Cruz referred the matter to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC).

Cruz, then acting executive secretary, informed the PEA in a letter dated June 7 that the President had approved the grant of a P1-billion loan from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) for the construction of the road, which runs parallel to the Roxas Boulevard. Citing this, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel urged Cruz the other day to inhibit himself from the probe.

Tagud, who blew the whistle on the overpriced boulevard, earlier filed a leave of absence and dared his fellow directors to follow suit so that they could not tamper with the documents on the alleged anomaly.

He said the contract for the Central Boulevard Project, as it was originally called, was awarded in 1999, but the "price escalation" that resulted in the overprice was approved by the new PEA board appointed by the Macapagal administration.

Tagud said only the 2.3-km portion built by Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction (JDLC) was overpriced. The rest of the road was built by Shoemart Inc. and DM Wenceslao of the R1 Consortium, which will get parcels of land in the reclamation area as payment.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal had accepted the offer of Tagud for him to go on leave.

"The President likewise expressed the desire that the entire board of directors of the PEA to go on leave for the duration of the investigation," he said. "They will just be allowed to go on leave so there will be an impartial investigation."

PEA employees and mid-level managers welcomed the President's order for members of the board to go on leave. "They were generally relieved and thankful to the President for ordering the board to go on leave," said Jose Agustin Cuenco, PEA marketing manager.

Lifestyle check

He said the PEA employees, who look forward to cooperating with the investigators, earlier wrote the President an open letter asking her to conduct a lifestyle check on the directors.

He said the employees asked members of the board to resign if they could not get their act together. At a meeting on Monday, Villareal asked the employees to "toe the line" and not to wash dirty linen in public, according to Cuenco.

It was only last night, after a four-hour closed door meeting, that five members of the PEA board led by Villareal announced their leave of absence. "This will prove that we have absolutely nothing to hide," PEA Chair Ernest Villareal said in a statement.

He said the PEA board of directors were "taking their cue" from the President.

"We wish to reiterate and assure the public that there has been no overpricing and no irregularities whatsoever in the implementation of this project," Villareal said.

He expressed confidence that the PEA board members would be vindicated once the investigation was finished. "The records will show that every centavo spent on this project can be accounted for, including the unavoidable cost overruns, at least during our watch. Our arithmetic is clear and indisputable," he said.

Bunye announced the PEA board's going on leave yesterday morning after the Palace received an 80-page report from the PEA explaining the agency's side on the alleged anomaly. Fifty pages of the report were in the form of a complaint against Tagud Jr., who was accused by his colleagues of allegedly extorting P14 million from JDLC, the contractor, according to the Palace source. Tagud has denied the accusation.

Malacañang released copies of Gerochi's resignation letter and the applications for leave of members of the PEA board in the afternoon. In his letter to President Macapagal dated Sept. 20, Gerochi offered to resign "effective upon acceptance by Her Excellency."

"I have every hope that this will pave way for the impartial investigation of the facts and circumstances regarding the PDM Boulevard project of the PEA," Gerochi said.

Villareal and four other members of the PEA board submitted uniformly worded letters regarding their respective leaves of absence. "In order to have a free and impartial investigation of the issues on the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, I would like to respectfully file for an indefinite leave of absence as member of the board of directors of this authority," the letter said.

Malacañang earlier dragged its feet on calls for the PEA board to be compelled to go on leave. "The President just waited for the submission of the report from the PEA," Bunye said.

Urgent

He said there was no need to create another body to probe the alleged PEA road scam as PAGC was established to investigate complaints against presidential appointees. "The matter is very serious and very urgent and it goes without saying that the PAGC should investigate this with dispatch," he said.

Bunye could not say whether the President was satisfied with the explanation given by GSIS, if one was made. "We're just tackling this one at a time," he said. "The allegations against PEA and GSIS can be treated separately so the appropriate referral can be done separately."

The Palace also released a copy of PAGC Chair Dario Rama's confirmation of receipt of documents related to the alleged PEA scam. "PAGC received the pertinent papers consisting of four folders today at 2 o'clock in the afternoon," Rama said in a letter to Cruz.

GEROCHI

Rama immediately endorsed the matter to the commission's investigation division.

Villareal said the road project was bid out and awarded during the Estrada administration, including the "initial contract changes and cost adjustments called variation orders amounting to P126 million."

He said only the cost overruns of P79 million and adjustments amounting to P42 million were approved by the current board.

"Since Day One of this controversy, we have adopted a stance of full transparency and we are committed to extend full cooperation to help shed light on this issue," he said.

Villareal branded as a "brazen lie" Tagud's latest allegation that the PEA management had sought approval for another P400-million increase in the contract of JDLC.

Legaspi, the contractor of the overpriced portion of the road, has filed a complaint with the PEA yesterday accusing Tagud and suspended assistant general manager Pelagio Lalap of extortion.

PCA picket

Lawyer Napoleon Poblador said that even if the PEA board had gone on leave his client was hoping a new board could conduct an objective investigation. Legaspi has accused Lalap and Tagud of extorting P2.1 million in cash and a P14 million check from him. But he said he did not fund the check.

Today, the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA) will picket in front of the Senate to demand an investigation of the road project.

"Definitely, we cannot expect anything if it's Malacañang that will investigate it," Linda Montayre, PCA secretary general, said.

Montayre said her group was trying to enlist the support of both the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Sanlakas in digging deeper into the scam.

Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council on Philippine Affairs, earlier cleared First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of any involvement in the alleged road scam. But Montayre said clearing the First Gentleman and anybody from Malacañang at this point would be premature.

"I'm dead sure someone received kickbacks," she said. "Projects like the boulevard, which involve a huge amount, can never be implemented without the approval of Malacañang."

Sen. John Osmeña said he did not buy the claim of PEA officials that the construction work was not overpriced. "They're so stupid. It's easy to see the amount of money spent on the project. The PEA said 'it is expensive but not overpriced.' *Kung ang presyo ay lamang doon sa tunay na halaga, ano pa ba iyan kundi overprice,"* he said.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara wants the GSIS investigated for the P1-billion loan it extended to the controversial road project. It would have been all right, he said, if the PDMB were a toll road project.

"But the PDMB is definitely not and pension funds are supposed to be invested in income-generating projects precisely to boost the value of the funds," Angara said. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and Christian V. Esguerra*

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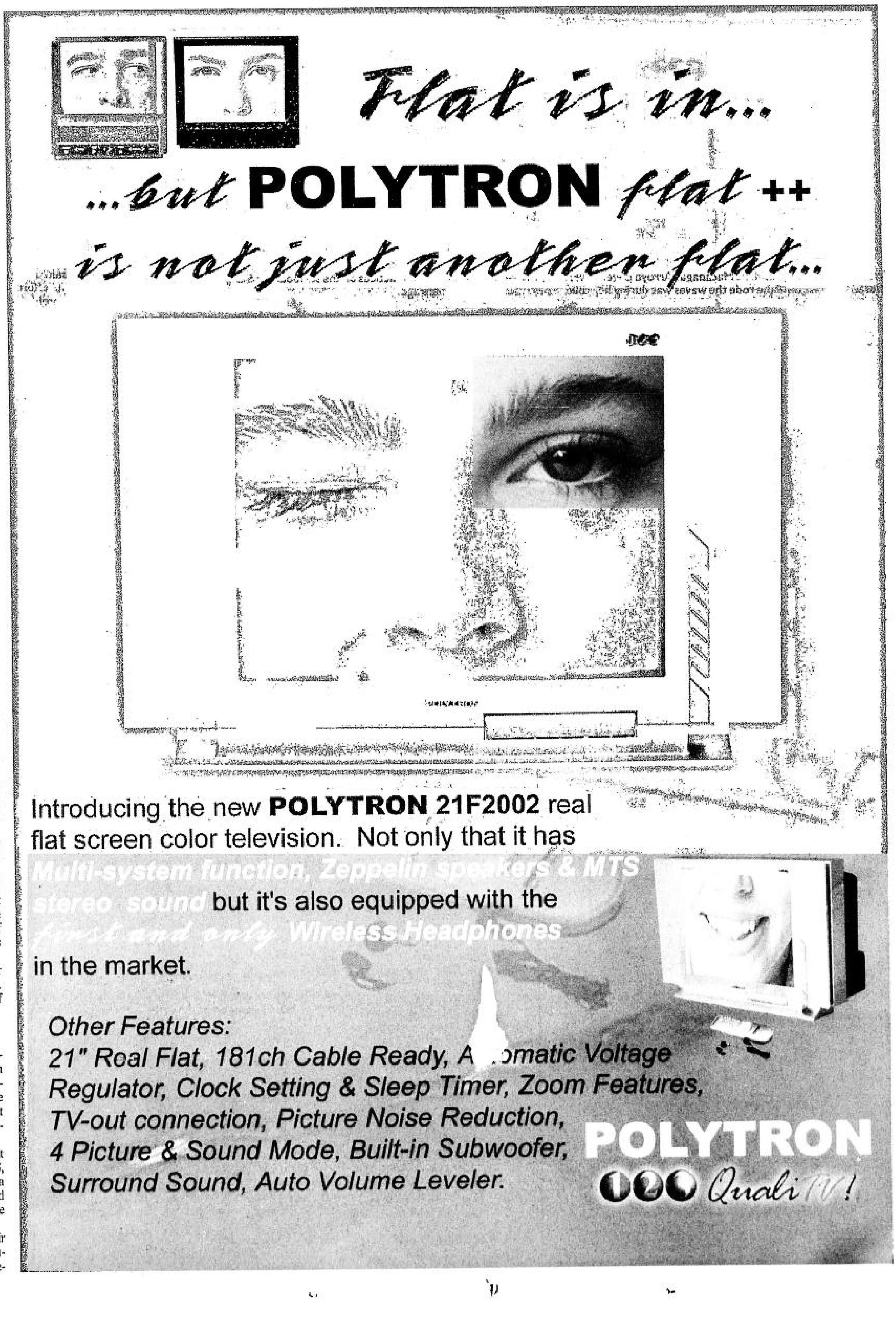

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Mark Jimenez banned from leaving country

From page A1

need for President Macapagal-Arroyo to issue instructions to the DOJ on the matter.

"The DOJ knows what needs to be done under the circumstances," Bunye said.

In a landmark decision issued Tuesday, the Supreme Court canceled the P1-million bail that Jimenez posted last year with the Manila Regional Trial Court to avoid arrest while fighting extradition to the United States.

The tribunal ruled that a person sought for extradition by any country for any offense should be detained to prevent the Philippines from becoming a haven for fugitives, and directed the Manila court to hasten Jimenez's extradition trial.

The lawmaker had said that he would appeal the high court's decision. He has 15 days to do so.

But the Philippine National Police is ready to serve the arrest warrant on Jimenez if ordered by the court, Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, told reporters.

Bataoil, however, said that police authorities had yet to draw up a security plan in case the warrant was issued. He also said that nothing had been discussed regarding where to detain Jimenez pending his extradition trial.

US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley said the US government welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to cancel Jimenez's bail.

"We hope that this would clear the way for the arrest of the fugitive," she said in a phone interview.

Kelley also said the US government had always been keen on Jimenez's extradition despite the many delays suffered by the case since it was filed in June 1999.

"We believe that the Supreme Court decision is a response to the government's call for a strong republic that strengthens the rule of law," she added.

Kelley said on television that the US government had waited three years for Jimenez to be extradited.

"To date, there has not been a single case of a court-ordered extradition to the US under our bilateral extradition treaty that was ratified between our two countries in November of 1996," she said, adding:

"The recent decision handed down by the Supreme Court is another important step we believe in moving toward the effective implementation of the bilateral extradition treaty."

Jimenez, who ran a computer parts distribution business in the United States, was indicted in 1997 in Washington on 17 counts of illegally giving nearly $40,000 to Democratic Party candidates, reportedly including Bill Clinton.

An additional indictment charged him with conspiracy, tax evasion and mail fraud.

No recognizance

Agence France Presse reported that Perez had rejected a request by Speaker Jose de Venecia that Jimenez be placed under house arrest under the protective custody of Congress.

"I don't think I will agree to recognizance," said the justice secretary, who described Jimenez as as a "flight risk."

"The court, in clear terms, canceled his bail bond and the natural consequence is for the arrest of the person whose bail has been canceled," Perez added.

Bunye evaded questions on how Malacañang was reacting to moves initiated by Jimenez's colleagues in the House to block his extradition.

Two proposed resolutions are making the rounds in the chamber, purportedly to seek an inquiry into Jimenez's status.

"Now that this appeal has been decided and the Supreme Court voted to cancel the bail of Representative Jimenez, we will just accept that," Bunye said.

He said it was up to Jimenez to file a motion for reconsideration in the high court. "As soon as that (motion of reconsideration) is decided one way or the other, the DOJ will just have to implement what the Supreme Court finally decides," he said.

Bunye declined to comment on suggestions that Jimenez's extradition would expedite the extradition to the Philippines of Charlie "Atong" Ang, a close associate of Estrada.

"We don't want to go into (the Ang issue)," he said. "We're just following the procedure prescribed by law after a decision of the Supreme Court is rendered."

Ang, who is currently detained in a US jail, is among Estrada's co-accused in the plunder and other criminal cases being heard by the Sandiganbayan.

Both Ang and Estrada, who is detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, theoretically face the death penalty if found guilty.

AFP also quoted justice department sources as saying that the US government would begin extradition proceedings against Ang on March 21.

'Ecstatic'

National Bureau of Investigation spokesperson Ricardo Diaz said the US Embassy was "ecstatic" over the Supreme Court ruling canceling Jimenez's bail.

"I was talking to (US Embassy legal attaché) Jim Nixon, and he was very happy with the decision. You can even use the word 'ecstatic,'" Diaz said in a phone interview.

Diaz, who heads the NBI-Interpol Division, said his unit would take charge of Jimenez's arrest as stipulated by the 1978 Extradition Law.

According to Diaz, Manila RTC Branch 42 Presiding Judge Guillermo Purganan can issue the arrest warrant even during the 15-day appeal period.

While the bureau is waiting for the arrest warrant, its agents are closely watching Jimenez's movements, Diaz said.

"He has already escaped from America," Diaz noted. "It's not a far-fetched idea that he would again escape, this time to a country that does not have an extradition treaty with the US."

Broker

After fleeing the United States and returning to the Philippines, Jimenez became Estrada's friend and adviser and helped broker several large business deals. But the two men later had a falling out.

Extradition proceedings against Jimenez were suspended last year while the Macapagal administration considered using Jimenez as a witness in Estrada's corruption cases. Justice officials later decided against it, saying Jimenez refused to cooperate fully.

While fighting extradition, Jimenez was elected to the House of Representatives in May 2001.

The Supreme Court decision did not say whether Jimenez's immunity from prosecution as a legislator could shield him from arrest.

Perez said immunity normally given to Philippine legislators only covered crimes punishable by a prison term of six years or less. Jimenez could be jailed for more than 100 years if convicted by US courts on 47 counts, DOJ officials have said. *Reports from Carlito Pablo, Norman Bordadora, Philip C. Tubeza, TJ Burgonio, AP, AFP*

ERRATUM

The real Justice Mendoza

(The following is a letter to the Inquirer *editor in chief from Conrad S. Tolentino, senior chief staff officer of the Office of the Chief Justice, Supreme Court.)*

MENDOZA

WE refer to the banner article "SC orders arrest of Mark Jimenez" in the Sept. 25 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

In the photographs of the Supreme Court justices, another person's picture has been placed over the name of Supreme Court Justice Vicente V. Mendoza. For the general information of your readers and in the interest of accurate reporting, we request the Inquirer to rectify the error and properly publish the correct photo of Justice Mendoza. We are providing you photos of Justice Mendoza for your files.

Further, while we commend the Inquirer for the helpful presentation of the voting of the Justices in the discussion, we wish to inform you that the Supreme Court (SC) strictly follows protocol on the seniority of appointment of its incumbent members. In this regard, we kindly recommend that future photo captions or reference to SC Justices in your publication follow the said protocol.

As of today, the order of seniority in the SC is as follows: Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr., Justice Josue N. Bellosillo, Justice Reynato S. Puno, Justice Jose C. Vitug, Justice Vicente V. Mendoza, Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Justice Antonio T. Carpio, Justice Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Justice Renato C. Corona, Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales and Justice Romeo J. Callejo Sr.

House raring for showdown with high court

From page A1

Leader Neptali Gonzales described the high court's ruling as "an invitation to impeachment" and said he would join his colleagues in filing an impeachment case against the justices.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said that once the tribunal's decision became final, the House would "act accordingly and (would) respect the rule of law."

Escudero conceded at a press conference that the House had yet to receive an order for Jimenez's arrest. "(But) if the Supreme Court's final decision is to cancel the bail of Congressman Jimenez, then we will have a showdown between the judiciary and the legislative. We are hoping it will not reach that point."

Other House leaders continued to warn of a crisis ahead.

"A constitutional crisis will not be avoided if the 70 congressmen who signed the resolution (supporting Jimenez) will also push for an impeachment," said Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., chair of the House foreign relations committee.

He was referring to two resolutions signed by 70 congressmen asking the House committees on foreign relations and on justice to determine the status of Jimenez. The resolutions, authored by Representatives Rolex Suplico, Prospero Pichay and Willie Villarama, oppose the extradition, saying it violates the separation of powers among the three branches of government.

Lozada said that once congressmen move for impeachment of the justices, the matter involving Jimenez would become a political issue of the separation of powers and whether a treaty would take precedence over the Constitution.

"We should work to avoid that," Lozada said.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Senate President Franklin Drilon and De Venecia should meet and discuss the issue to head off a grave political crisis.

But Sen. Manuel Villar, a former House Speaker, cautioned all parties to be careful in interpreting the tribunal's decision.

"The final decision still belongs to the high court," he said, adding that "the issue here is not Mark Jimenez as a person, but principles in law."

Worst-case scenario

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, chair of the House committee on justice, said impeachment of the justices was the worst-case scenario.

But he said the congressmen could also use the national budget to ventilate their sentiments on the impending arrest of a colleague.

"It's dangerous because one congressman can start the ball rolling," Libanan said.

He a[illegible]ded that some congressmen h[illegible] become "very emotional" ab[illegible]t the tribunal's ruling.

Esc[illegible]ro said it was premature [illegible]he House leadership to say [illegible]er it would block the arrest of Jimenez, who had announced that he would file a motion for reconsideration.

But Escudero echoed his colleagues' questions on why Jimenez should be arrested. He said congressmen were not coddling Jimenez but merely wanted to protect the constitutional right of a person to post bail and of a lawmaker to perform his duty.

"In the case of Congressman Jimenez, he did not kill anybody," Escudero said. "He did not steal. He did not oppress any Filipino. He has cases in the US, but for us, he did not commit any crime in the Philippines."

MARK Jimenez at the Inquirer Tuesday night: House members rally behind Manila congressman. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Under the Constitution, a person is denied bail only if he is accused of a heinous crime and the evidence against him is strong, Escudero said.

He said the crimes supposedly committed by Jimenez were not considered heinous in the United States or in the Philippines.

Escudero also said that because Jimenez's case had no precedence, many questions needed to be answered.

One of these is whether the Bill of Rights enshrined in the Constitution will be set aside in favor of an extradition treaty, he said, adding that his opinion was that the Constitution should be over and above the extradition treaty.

Gonzales agreed with this view: "In cases of conflict between municipal (Philippine) and international laws, the municipal laws prevail. And what better law should prevail than the fundamental law of the land, the Constitution?"

Tyranny

Gonzales also said the ruling constituted "judicial tyranny."

Libanan said Congress should review the extradition treaty for possible amendment.

"If we have an extradition treaty, are the rights of our citizens under the Constitution suspended?" he said. "Do we immediately incarcerate our citizens? For me, the Constitution is still higher than any international law because it is the fundamental law of the land. A treaty must conform with the Constitution."

Libanan likewise pointed out that Jimenez could not be arrested while Congress was in session.

But Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said congressional immunity was not absolute.

She said the right to bail only applied in criminal cases and not in extradition proceedings.

Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan said that while Jimenez could resort to "legal remedies such as filing a motion for reconsideration," the tribunal's ruling should be respected.

"The decision of the Supreme Court is a concrete step toward upholding the rule of law, honoring international treaties, and honoring dignity to public office," he said, adding:

"We cannot renege on our international obligations. To do so would deter and hamper harmonious and cooperative diplomatic relations with foreign states."

Coercion

But Sen. John Osmeña said that while he believed that Jimenez should have been jailed in the United States a long time ago, the ruling was disturbing because it gave a foreign government an "instrument of coercion."

"If, for example, we have a treaty and some senators do not agree with it, any foreign government can just harass us by filing charges against us in their courts and filing the necessary extradition petition here," he said.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Vicente Sotto III said they did not agree with some congressmen who claimed that Jimenez's arrest could bring about a constitutional crisis.

Pimentel noted that no crisis arose when then Rep. Nicanor de Guzman was convicted by a lower court and jailed for gun smuggling. *With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Cynthia D. Balana*

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National Food Authority

'Food security for a strong republic'

Messages

MY WARMEST greetings to the management and staff of the National Food Authority on your agency's 30th Anniversary.

For the past three decades, the NFA has played a critical role in the government's efforts to assure the country's food security. The past years witnessed an evolution of the agency as it took on the varied tasks of stabilizing the country's grains and non-grains food products. You offer our local farmers various forms of assistance to enable them to earn more from their production efforts and, at the same time, assure our consumers east access to rice and other grains at affordable prices.

A strong nation is anchored on its capability to secure for its people continuous access to sufficient food supply at affordable prices. As this Administration strives to establish a strong Republic, I continue to count on the NFA to play an active role in realizing our goals as a nation.

More power and Mabuhay tayong lahat.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

I WISH to extend my warmest felicitations to the management and staff of the National Food Authority (NFA) as you celebrate your 30th Anniversary.

Rice is the staple food of Filipinos. Its availability, therefore, is the very essence of food security and the core of the nation's strength. In fact, it is one of the primary goals of government through the Department of Agriculture to make rice available for every Filipino.

In this regard, we at the DFA take pride in the achievements of the NFA during the past three decades and the unwavering commitment of its officials and employees for continuously pursuing the agency's mandate of stabilizing the supply and price of rice. Through the years, the agency has touched the lives of its stakeholders—the farmers, grains traders and processors and consumers.

The NFA's *palay* procurement program serves as an assurance for farmers to get remunerative return for their production efforts. Its continuing mission to instill discipline within the rice industry created an environment that promotes healthy competition and harmonious relationship among grains traders and processors. And its rice distribution program affords consumers access to the basic staple at a price within their reach.

Today, as the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo strives to build a strong nation, the DA and the NFA are likewise faced with the challenging task of ensuring food security—our responsibility to the Filipino people.

As the NFA enters its fourth decade of existence, I therefore call on its officials and staff to remain steadfast in serving our fellowmen, especially the underprivileged ones, by providing them enough and reasonably-priced staple and other food items on their tables, at all times.

Congratulations and more power.

Mabuhay ang NFA.

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary, Department of Agriculture

TODAY the National Food Authority family celebrates its 30th year of existence.

For three decades the NFA has always been in the forefront of providing the Filipino farmers, grains businessmen and the consuming public access to low-priced but good quality staples.

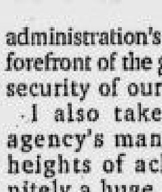
The NFA will continue to perform its mandate to the Filipino people. Likewise, we shall continue to support the causes of our stakeholders: the rice farmers and consumers.

To the men and women of the NFA, without your utmost dedication and support, this momentous occasion will not be possible. This is why I salute your continued dedication in performing your respective tasks.

Since a strong republic is anchored on food stability and security, the NFA will continue to occupy its pivotal role in the government's efforts of ensuring food for all.

Congratulations and more power.

ANTHONY R.A. ABAD
NFA Administrator



IT IS WITH distinct pride that I greet the men and women of the National Food Authority on the occasion of the agency's celebration of its 30th year of existence as the government's food marketing arm.

As I join the agency as Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the NFA Council at this most challenging time, I recognize the magnitude of the agency's mandate via-a-vis the administration's food security program. Verily, the NFA is at the forefront of the government's efforts of ensuring the stability and security of our rice and other staple food.

I also take cognizance of the capabilities of the agency's manpower in propelling the NFA to greater heights of achievements. The NFA workforce is definitely a huge pool of competent professionals. Through the years, they have collectively powered the agency to a high level of efficiency. Today they remain a strong resource of the government in realizing the mandate of the NFA – as guardian of food security motivator of food productivity.

With 30 fruitful years behind it and more challenging years ahead, I am confident that the NFA will continue to move forward with more resilience and resolve to be of the best service to our food producer for our people.

ANGELITO M. SARMIENTO
Presidential Adviser on Agricultural Modernization
Chairman, NFA Council

By Raquel P. Gomez

THESE vans with the yellow and red stripes called "Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera" have become almost ubiquitous in the urban areas. Parked in public places, the rolling stores that sell rice at P14 and low-priced basic commodities are patronized by the urban community, mostly the poor.

Up to 1,570 rolling or mobile stores now roam around highly urbanized and depressed areas in Metro Manila and cities in the country, as well as in relocation and calamity areas. To date, the project has benefited almost 3,000 cities and municipalities or more than 30,000 barangays.

The rolling stores are just among the substantial accomplishments in the objectives of the government as announced by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during her Sona address in July.

It is one indication of the government's seriousness in delivering its promise of "victory over poverty within the decade."

The TGL (rolling stores) is part of the National Food Authority's programs to provide rice and other basic food commodities to the "poorest of the poor."

NFA, which is celebrating its 30 years of establishment, has made a notable progress in the implementation of its programs and targets for this year, according to Anthony Abad, NFA administrator.

Abad said aside from the rolling stores, the agency has stabilized the price of rice in the market through its infusion of inexpensive rice in public markets as well as through the establishment of *bigasan* (rice) retail outlets in the poor areas in the major cities (NCR, Cebu and Davao) and 30 provinces.

"The targeted rice distribution is a successful program. Every time we set up a *bigasan* in the public markets, the next day the prices of commercial regular milled rice go down by P1 or P2 per kilogram."

Also in compliance with the President's Sona commitment, Abad said the agency is now in the process of lifting the rice importation responsibility of NFA.

"The President's policy direction is towards open importation of rice, but we realized the farmers are not yet ready for open importation. Together with the Department of Agriculture, we are preparing farmer cooperatives to import rice and also engage in the rice business. The farmers will not only be producers but wholesalers and retailers of rice also."

Starting this year, farmer cooperatives will sell the premium rice imported by the government and they have the right to set price ceiling for them to earn.

The volume of imported rice the farmers will sell is about 50,000 metric tons or about 1 million bags. "That is just the first tranche. If there are more cooperatives who want to participate, we can make imported rice available for sale by farmer cooperatives," said Abad.

Part too of the government's plan is to make the farmers importers of rice. "The logic here is when the country experiences a lean rice season, the farmers can engage in rice importation and the NFA will lessen its participation to the buffer stock."

NFA (formerly National Grains Authority and subsequently changed its title and functions), was established on Sept. 26, 1972 through Presidential Decree No. 4.

As a government agency, NFA is engaged in buying and selling rice and involved in buffer stocking of food security stocks for the country. It also buys palay and sells rice to stabilize the price in the market.

NFA also has a mandate to provide food security in the staple cereals in times and places of calamity or emergency, both natural and man-made.

NFA's Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera (TGL) program is an integrated distribution program designed to make available rice and other basic food commodities at lower prices to the poor sector of our society. The program includes the rolling stores and *bigasan sa palengke*. NFA also has accredited rice retailers.

The targeted rice distribution program caters to the poorest of the poor families in the highly depressed areas in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao classified by the National Anti-Poverty Commission and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The coconut farmers food access program, similar in concept with the targeted rice distribution program, has coconut farmers as beneficiaries.

By presidential orders, NFA is also tasked to undertake buying and selling of other commodities including sugar and fertilizer to stabilize supply and prices.

NFA Administrator Anthony Abad (second from right) watches as Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor (center) weighs *galunggong* sold at a TGL outlet during the launching of the program 'Murang Galunggong sa TGL Rolling Store'

ABAD assists President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo serve a customer buying rice at the TGL rolling store

With an anniversary theme "food security for a strong republic," the agency has a strong commitment towards empowering the farmers.

Abad said the NFA in the future would no longer intervene in the market but rather become a participant—"to assist or complement rather than to regulate and control." NFA, he said, will eventually "corporatize" (become a corporation) itself so that it can engage in business activities that can enhance the agricultural sector.

"The President's vision is that the rice sector will eventually become sustainable and a stronger sector vis-à-vis the foreign competition. We're looking forward to a more efficient rice sector by allowing greater private sector participation," said Abad.

Passing the 30th milestone for the country

THE National Food Authority has logged 30 years working for the country's food security. On Sept. 23 to 27, its anniversary will just be another working week for the agency, with an assortment of food fairs, exhibits and symposia reinforcing its central thrust of "Food Security for a Strong Republic."

The anniversary that will be graced by ranking officials, stakeholder representatives and leaders of the grains sector, coincides with the observance of Grains Industry Week. Presidential Proclamation No. 1058 of 1997 provides for such a multi-sectoral celebration promoting food security, food safety and quality consciousness, and fair trade practices among Filipinos. It is ongoing at the agency's Food Complex, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

History

The NFA began its work in 1972 as the National Grains Authority, created by a presidential decree aimed at developing the grains industry, particularly rice, corn, mongo, sorghum and other staples.

Its scope was expanded in 1981, when it was reconstituted as the National Food Authority, to include assistance to markets of raw processed or packaged food products, with the ends of enhancing food quality and security.

ABAD leads other NFA officials in monitoring rice markets in Metro Manila

In 1985, Executive Order 1028 deregulated the production and trade of food products by government agencies, ending NFA's buying and selling of non-grains and leading to the privatization of feedgrain imports. Two years later, it was removed from the Office of the President and transferred to the agriculture department as an attached agency through EO 116. Twice since then the NFA was reverted to the OP until EO81 issued March 11, 2002 brought it back under the wings of the DA.

Track Record

Of the NFA's varied accomplishments and programs in recent times, highlights include:

- As of September 2002, NFA practically supplies a fourth or 6,549 metric tons of the country's rice need of 25,700 metric tons per day.
- There are now 1,527 Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera (TGL) rolling stores and 1,080 Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) nationwide, with 20 percent in Metro Manila.
- NFA's Bantay Presyo to monitor the rice market keeps the agency's rice prices at P16/kg in the BGPs and P14/kg in the TGL rolling stores in line with its pro-poor programs.
- Coco farmers are not neglected, as another pro-poor program sells them rice at P14/kg;
- Corn farmers get their share of benefits from the NFA's Corn Development Program, which makes available a revolving fund; there's also an AFP and PNP Food Assistance Program and a Disaster Distribution Program in cooperation with the Social Welfare and Development and the National Disaster Coordinating Council;
- The agency's rice procurement program which buys palay at P9-P10/kg has benefited 250,000 farmers who are now being encouraged to go into importing, wholesaling and retailing rice. NFA also gives farmers access to the best post harvest facilities, like milling, drying, warehousing and transport;
- The NFA is abreast of developments in the international food industry, taking part in food summits with the Association of Food Marketing Agencies, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and others. It also cooperates with other countries, like Israel in new technologies for rice storage and logistics for the first movement of grains.

Prospects

In the light of recent developments, the agency vows to provide farmers greater access to superior post-harvest facilities to secure local rice output and to strictly monitor the distribution and pricing of local and imported NFA rice. A memorandum of agreement with the Bureau of Customs helps assures this. The recent Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas circular allowing loans extended by banks to the NFA as alternative compliance to the mandatory 10 percent agrarian reform lending allocation augurs well for both the banking and agricultural sectors.

With all these, the NFA is working hard with all sectors to help ensure enough food for all Filipinos.

NFA Vision: Food Security and Global Competitiveness

The National Food Authority has felt that it performs best as a government corporation, given its vital role in helping ensure food security for all Filipinos. As such, it has the operational and financial flexibility to assist Filipino farmers and consumers. In the medium term, it will primarily provide services with the end in view of food security or buffer stocking, a national policy that it will continue to implement.

The NFA will situate its programs, where they would be most effective. For example, the social welfare department will handle targeted food subsidy for the poor. The agriculture department will work to stabilize farm-gate prices. In performing services for other government bodies, the NFA must be allotted service fees of subsidies.

The NFA sees the Filipino farmers as soon-to-be globally competitive, through marketing and production efficiency. If farmers are not competitive, they will not make good money. If they do not make profits, they will stop producing and domestic production will not suffice for the national requirement. Given the needed government support, rice production can be made competitive. Competitive rice farmers, being profitable, will increase production and ensure sufficiency.

Mission: Modernization of food marketing, price stabilization and farmer empowerment

The agency aims to realize its vision by modernizing the food sector through maintaining efficiency in all aspects of the industry from production to marketing. This is the way to global competitiveness.

NFA will continue to assist farmers and consumers by providing excellent services geared towards food security and stabilization both in terms of supply and prices. It will do its utmost to ensure good profits to farmers to motivate them to produce more.

It likewise vows to accelerate the modernization of the food marketing business on its way to global competitiveness through the reliable route of industrial efficiency.

Not the least of NFA's mission is the empowerment of the farmers. Subsidies incurred by the NFA should be given to them. For the country to have a strong economy, it must have a strong domestic base, which depends on a teeming rural economy. Growth must come first from the rural areas, so strengthening the countryside is the NFA's main fo[illegible]

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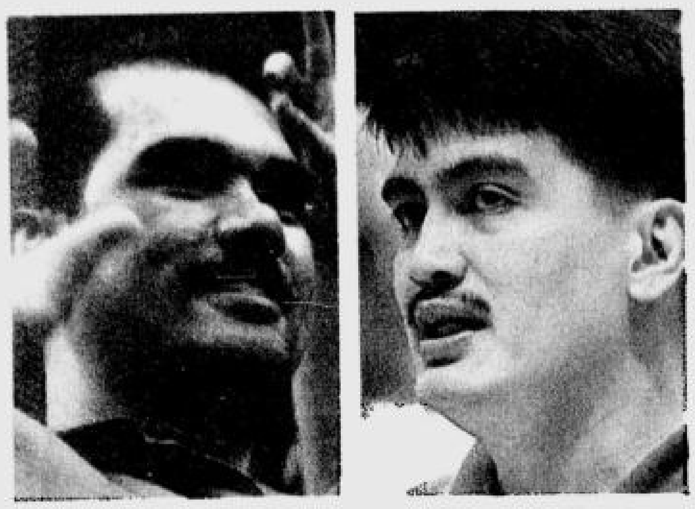
SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

UM, Holy Angel top badminton

UNIVERSITY of Makati topped the men's division while Holy Angel University dominated the women's category to share the limelight in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) badminton tournaments at the UoM gym.



ATENEO coach Joel Banal (left) and La Salle counterpart Franz Pumaren.

UAAP CHAMPIONSHIP

La Salle-Ateneo war on

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
12 noon—Ateneo vs UP (Jrs)
2 p.m.—FEU vs AdU (Women's)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle (Srs)
HEAD-TO-HEAD *(Elims)*
La Salle 70, Ateneo 60 (1st rd)
Ateneo 76, La Salle 63 (2nd rd)

IT CAN'T get any better than this. A repeat showdown between the league's bitterest rivals, both of them engaging in a last-man standing type of battle for the ultimate prize–the UAAP basketball crown.

La Salle, holder of the title since 1998, and challenger Ateneo clash today at 4 p.m. in Game One of the best-of-three UAAP championship series at the Araneta Coliseum.

This return matchup has taken this basketball-crazy nation by storm with scalpers making a killing and people from all walks of life getting riveted to their TV sets as the Archers and the Eagles battle for supremacy.

But if the atmosphere is bursting with contrasting emotions, the protagonists, including the coaches and team officials, are taking things in sportsmanlike fashion.

Terry Capistrano, the Archers' team manager, congratulated Ateneo for making the finals.

"Ateneo is a worthy opponent. We also

LA SALLE/ A21

It can't be

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE ODDS are against Ateneo today.

In Binondo, the betting is your P100 for Ateneo will fetch you P200 if La Salle loses. *Doblado, wika nga.*

I can believe that. Binondo is the nation's seat of seers. It is there where even the fate of the nation is predicted, oftentimes with clockwork precision.

Besides, the records don't lie.

In 15 games, La Salle lost but only once on its way to the best-of-three playoffs for the UAAP crown. In contrast, Ateneo bowed three times.

The Dream Game is on and the Dream Team is La Salle. It can't be any truer than that. The best Ateneo can do is dream. Dream of upsetting La Salle.

All right, Ateneo beat La Salle the last time they met. By almost a rout at that. And it came when La Salle was gunning for a 14-game sweep of the eliminations. For the Eagles, it can't be any sweeter than that.

But just as quickly as it got humbled by its arch-rival, La Salle rebounded with vengeance. It virtually toyed with University of Sto. Tomas in the Final Four to dash UST's hope of forging a playoff for a finals berth.

Again in contrast, Ateneo had to hurdle the harrowing experience of defeating University of the East twice to make it to the finals. In their winner-take-all on Sunday, only a miracle saved the Eagles from extinction. Just as the game clock was set to expire, Gec Chia soared for the jumper that instantly transformed Ateneo from loser to winner. More important, it breathed life to the most endangered species found along Katipunan Avenue. It can't be any nicer than that. As Ateneo president, Bienvenido F. Nebres, said: "Gec Chia's shot will remain in the annals of dramatic moments in Ateneo sports."

But can Ateneo score another miracle today and hand La Salle a rare second straight setback?

I have my doubts.

The Archers have been the toughest the last four years that's why they are the UAAP champions the last four years. They still are that's why they now own a 14-1 mark, a record done almost in a cold-blooded manner. Two more wins and they will pocket a fifth title in five years. In these times when the game has become hi-tech and talents have become a dime a dozen, that sure will be something worth crowing about.

Is Ateneo ready to stop La Salle's seemingly unstoppable march to more heights of greatness?

Yes but only if Ateneo can have five Gec Chias, not only today but also in the remaining game(s) of the best-of-three series.

It can't be "more Binondo" than that.

Magic induction all set Friday

By Trudy Tynan
AP Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts—The city where James Naismith invented a simple game in 1891 using a ball and two peach baskets is now home to a high-tech Basketball Hall of Fame housed in a lighted, 10-story sphere.

The new $35.7 million museum opens Saturday with a line of 2,700 schoolchildren passing a basketball three miles from Springfield College—where the game was invented—to Hall of Famers, including newest inductee Magic Johnson.

Johnson will be inducted Friday along with coaches Larry Brown and Lute Olson, the late Drazen Petrovic, North Carolina State women's coach Kay Yow and the Harlem Globetrotters.

The new building is a generation apart from that hushed collection of old jerseys and leather balls that hung in the hall when it first opened in 1960 at Springfield College.

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Or get the chance to win your dream DigitAll appliances!

Grand Draw
January 26, 2003

1st Prize	One (1)	Isuzu Trooper
2nd Prize	One (1)	ST-43T6P Projection TV
3rd Prize	One (1)	AP-2480B/BC Package Aircon
4th Prize	One (1)	SR-S20NTC Side-by-Side Refrigerator
5th Prize	One (1)	CT-29M6P Flat TV
6th Prize	One (1)	CT-29K3W Flat TV
7th Prize	One (1)	AS-09A8MB Split-Type Aircon
8th Prize	One (1)	T100 Color TFT LCD Cellphone
9th Prize	One (1)	DVD-8500 DVD Combo Player
10th Prize	One (1)	MAX-VL85 VCD Mini Component
11th Prize	One (1)	WA-90K2S Washing Machine

Monthly Draw
First monthly draw October 27, 2002
Second monthly draw November 24, 2002
Third monthly draw December 22, 2002

1st Prize	One (1)	Isuzu Fuego
2nd Prize	One (1)	ST-43T6P Projection TV
3rd Prize	One (1)	AP-2480B/BC Package Aircon
4th Prize	One (1)	SR-S20NTC Side-by-Side Refrigerator
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10th Prize	One (1)	MAX-VL85 VCD Mini Component
11th Prize	One (1)	WA-90K2S Washing Machine

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Actual appearance of prizes may vary from photo.

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- Every purchase of any Samsung household appliance, cellphone or computer monitor from Sept. 15, 2002 to January 15, 2003 at any authorized Samsung dealer nationwide entitles the customer to join the raffle promo.

- Completely fill out the warranty card with your name, address, tel. no. and affix your signature on top of your name. Also include the sales invoice or official receipt number and other pertinent information. Then, drop the warranty registration portion at the drop box located at the appliance store/dealer where you made the purchase. Incomplete entries will be invalidated. Entries can also be mailed to:

Samsung DigitAll Grand Prix Promo c/o Marketing Department, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation, G/F Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

- The following Samsung products are included in the promo: Plasma Display Panel, Projection TVs, Flat TVs, conventional TVs, Home Theater Systems, DVD Players, VCD Mini Components, VCD Players, Refrigerators, Air Conditioners, Washing Machines, Microwave Ovens, Cellular Phones, and SyncMaster computer monitors.

- There will be three monthly draws. All draws will be held within the afternoon program, SOP, at the GMA 7 studios in Quezon City at 1 pm in the presence of a DTI representative.

- Deadlines for dropping of entries will be on the ff. dates:

  - *October 27, 2002 draw (October 15, 2002)*
  - *November 24, 2002 draw (November 15, 2002)*
  - *December 22, 2002 draw (December 15, 2002)*
  - *January 26, 2003 draw (January 15, 2003)*

- Mailed entries received at the Samsung Head Office on or before the deadlines for dropping of entries will qualify for the raffle draw for that particular raffle period.

- A participant can win only once per draw. If the name of a winner will be drawn more than once, he/she will receive the prize with the higher value. However, a winner in an earlier draw can still win in the succeeding draws provided he/she submits other entries. Non-winning entries during any of the monthly draws will not be eligible to join the succeeding monthly draws but will automatically be included in the grand draw.

- Winners will be notified via telephone call and registered mail. Winners may claim their prize at the Samsung Head Office, G/F Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, by presenting any valid ID with photo (passport, driver's license, SSS/GSIS, company ID, etc.) and the official receipt or sales invoice within 60 days from notification date. For provincial winners, they can claim their prize at the nearest authorized Samsung dealer specified in the registered mail.

- Prizes are not convertible to cash. Vehicle registration shall be for the account of the winner.

- All employees of Samsung Electronics Philippines; all its advertising agencies, New Thinkers Company, Ace Saatchi, and FCB; its PR, participating dealers and promo agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the promo.

- Samsung Electronics Philippines will shoulder the 20% prize tax.

- Promo is nationwide.

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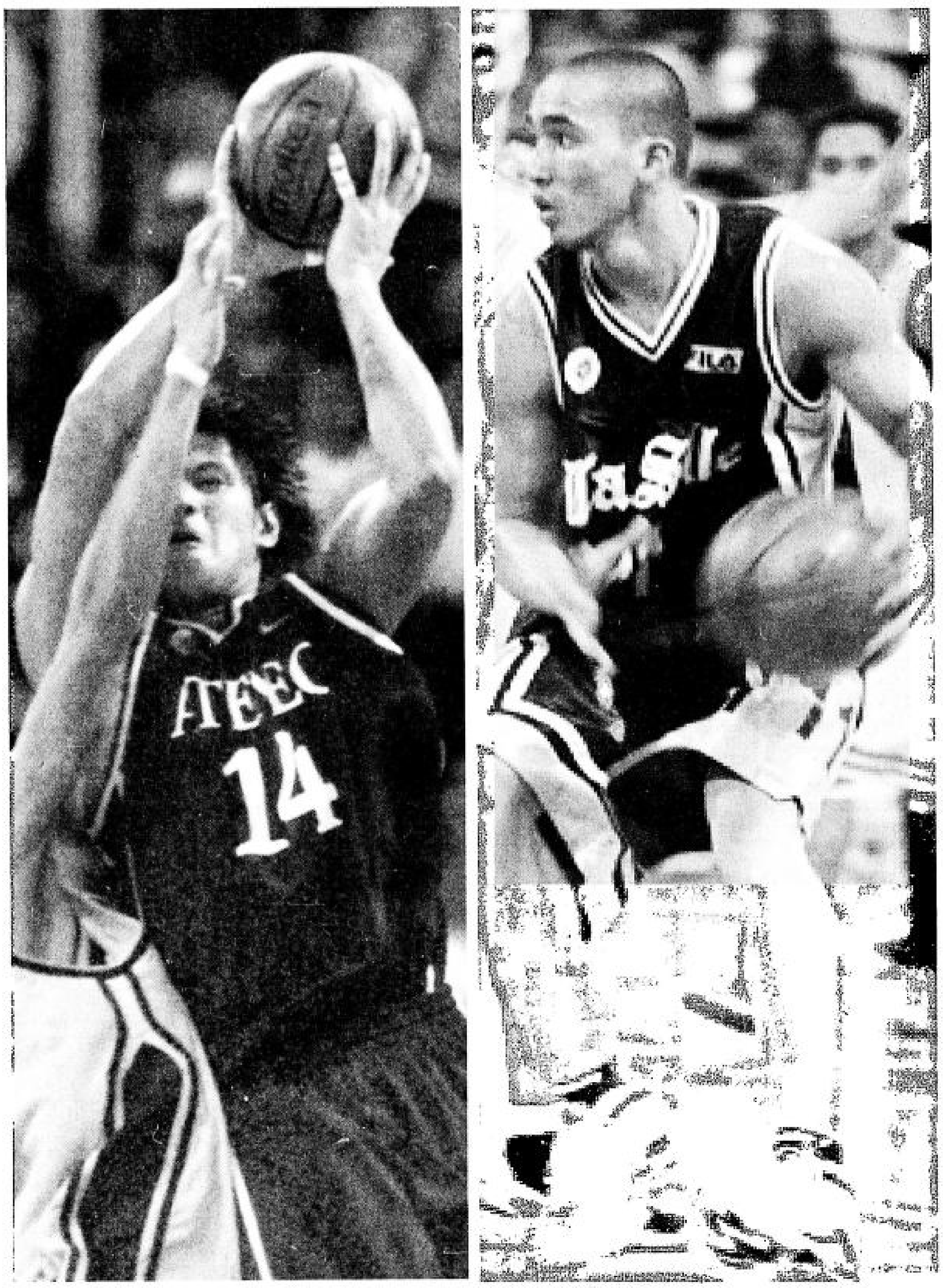

MAIN MEN: Enrico Villanueva (left) for Ateneo and Mike Cortez for La Salle.

FILE PHOTO

La Salle-Ateneo war on

From page A20

thank NU, this year's host, for the successful conclusion of the eliminations and the Final Four. Both teams have prepared well for this series and it is now all square from hereon. Previous statistics are history," Capistrano told the INQUIRER.

Joel Banal, whose coaching savvy carried Ateneo to its second straight final appearance, has acknowledged the strength of La Salle.

"It's no joke going 13-0," said Banal, referring to the Archers' winning streak abruptly cut when the Eagles triumphed, 76-63, at the end of the eliminations.

But Banal feels comfortable regarding Ateneo's chances. In one of Ateneo's thanksgiving masses, Fr. Bienvenido Nebres S.J., president, asked for prayers from the Eagles' countless supporters. He noted that the Eagles hurdled tremendous odds in order to enter the finals.

"I feel that we have a more experienced team right now compared with last year. The series is 50-50. I'm glad that the boys have learned from their mistakes in the past," said Banal.

La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren noted that a La Salle-Ateneo encounter brings out the best from the protagonists.

"So much pride is at stake in this series. The feeling is different and you must also contend with pressure," Pumaren noted.

Like Banal, Pumaren said the series is "anybody's ballgame." "The team which can keep its poise down the stretch will have the edge. True grit and character will come out," he added.

To his credit, Banal has successfully squeezed the best from his bench, making stars out of George Chia, Larry Fonacier and Cris Quimpo.

Wesley Gonzales is playing a wonderful season, while future MVP Enrico Villanueva and Rich Alvarez have solidified Ateneo's frontline. Then, there are LA Tenorio, Andrew Cruz, Sonny Tadeo and veteran Andrew Cruz.

La Salle faces trouble if Ateneo shooters can find their range. Ateneo, however, must still reckon with La Salle's famed press. It must also gamble with the zone and let BJ Manalo, Mike Cortez and Joseph Yeo hit the outside shots.

Cortez remains the league's deadliest pointguard and if he can do his usual no-look passes, acrobatic shots and timely jumpers, the Archers can be formidable.

Carlo Sharma, Adonis Sta. Maria, Willy Wilson and Manny Ramos will provide La Salle the needed muscle. Junjun Cabatu, Tyrone Tang and the tireless Mark Cardona will also play crucial roles for the Archers.

Confusion mars coming Philta polls

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE ELECTION for the Philippine Tennis Association national presidency is set for Jan. 4. However, there apparently is a confusion as to when is the deadline for registration.

This ensued after Children's Tennis Workshop president Jovy Mamawal, a staunch critic of Philta president Buddy Andrada, slammed Philta officials yesterday for not announcing the deadline for the filing of candidacy.

Citing article XI, section 4 of the Philta constitution and by-laws, Mamawal said a candidate for national president must file his certificate of candidacy not less than 90 days prior to the election.

"That would be on or before this coming Sept. 30," said Mamawal. "Unless they (Philta officials) have changed the constitution again to favor their cause, everybody interested in running for Philta president must register on or before that date."

However, Andrada said that he is not aware of the Sept. 30 deadline though he admits that the election is indeed scheduled on the first Saturday of January 2003.

Andrada's claim was supported by Philta secretary general, lawyer Johnny Marfil, who stressed that the filing of candidacy can be done even on the date of the election itself.

"Maybe they are talking about the elections of the electors (which, in this case, are the regional vice presidents) who will vote for the national president on Jan. 4," Marfil told the INQUIRER.

Marfil added that anybody, including Mamawal, can run for Philta president as long as he is a Filipino citizen, not less than 40 years old, and a member of the Philta.

Still, Mamawal said he is afraid that Andrada is again "trying to manipulate" the constitution like what he claimed happened during the RVP elections last January.

JUDGES' GOLFEST

The Philippine Judges Foundation Inc., which will be the beneficiary of a fund-raising golf tournament on Sept. 27 at Wack Wack Golf Country, received a donation of P1 million from the First Gentleman, lawyer Jose Miguel T. Arroyo, through the First Gentleman's Foundation. PJFI's main concern is to provide judges with primary health care and improve their quality of life toward judicial excellence. Shown from left are: RTC executive judge (Caloocan) Silvestre Bello, Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, a member of the PJFI council of advisers; RTC Judge Jun Ranada, First Gentleman Arroyo handing over the P1 million check to PJFI president Mariano M. Umali, PJFI chair and former Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa and Justice Vicente Santiago Jr.

ASIAD CAGEFEST

RP cagers can beat UAE, Nokors–Jong

By June Navarro

UICHICO

THERE are no scouting reports on North Korea. The United Arab Emirates is definitely stronger than Qatar.

These are the major stumbling blocks standing on the path of the RP basketball team's first-round stint in the Asian Games but head coach Jong Uichico foresees bright chances the moment the Nationals meet these squads.

"We have more than a 50-50 chance of getting into the quarterfinals. I think we can beat our group mates in the first round," said Uichico, whose wards are bunched with the Emirates and the Nokors in Group C.

The Nationals, who left the country yesterday to embark on a gold-hunting expedition in Busan, South Korea, are set to face the Emirates on Saturday (Sept. 28) before battling the mysterious Nokors two days later.

"Up to now, we still don't have any idea on North Korea's brand of basketball. There are unconfirmed reports that North Korea has a solid lineup but that remains to be seen," said Uichico.

The only confirmed report on the North Korean side was the presence of the towering Ri Myung Hun, who, at 7-foot-9, is the tallest basketball player in the world.

Hun's mere existence on the shaded lane could baffle the likes of Asi Taulava, Eric Menk, Dennis Espino and two-time PBA MVP Danny Ildefonso.

The clash against the Emirates, however, is an entirely different ballgame, according to Uichico.

"They (Emirates) are definitely better than the Qataris. They have a couple of big and brawny players who could match up against our frontline and a pair of guards who live up to the standards of our pointguards," said Uichico.

The Nationals toyed with the Qataris recently (78-61 and 83-71) in a pair of tune-up games hosted by the PBA and Selecta.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, the RP squad team manager, Uichico and the rest of the coaching staff are expected to name the replacement for Danny Seigle today during the managers' meeting of Asiad Games basketball competitions.

Seigle, the top offensive gunner for the Nationals, won't see action in the Asiad and, at worst, for the rest of the PBA season after the San Miguel Beer superstar tore his achilles tendon during the RP-Qatar game last Sunday.

With Seigle's injury expected to heal in six months, anybody among RP team reserves Boyet Fernandez, Mick Pennisi and Chris Jackson will make it to the team.

Pistons tap China center

By David Eggert
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT—Chinese center Menk Bateer of the Denver Nuggets will be going to the Detroit Pistons, a basketball source said Tuesday.

The Pistons will trade forward Rodney White to the Nuggets for the 2.08 meters (6-foot-11) Bateer, Don Reid and a first-round pick, said the source, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Bateer became the second Chinese player in the NBA in February, joining Wang Zhi Zhi of the Dallas Mavericks.

Bateer scored four points in two preseason games with the Nuggets in October. He then returned to China to fulfill his commitments with China's national team and the Beijing Ducks.

The source said the trade would be made within the next few days.

White was the ninth overall pick of the 2001 draft. He appeared in 16 games last season, averaging eight minutes and 3.5 points. The 22-year-old White was drafted after playing one season at North Carolina-Charlotte.

Detroit drafted Reid in 1995. He played four seasons with the Pistons before signing with Washington as a free agent in March 2000. He signed with Orlando in August 2000 and played two seasons with the Magic before being traded to Denver in August. He has averaged 3.4 points and 2.9 rebounds in his career.

Russia vs US 5

NANJING, China—The United States beat Australia, 71-56, in the semifinals of the women's basketball world championship on Tuesday to set up a final against Russia, who came away 70-53 winners over South Korea.

It has been a year of upsets for South Korean athletics, most notably in the soccer World Cup finals, but there was to be no fairytale ending for their women's basketball team at the Wutaishan gymnasium in the eastern city of Nanjing.

With 10 steals, five fast-breaks, and 40 minutes of full-court press, the Koreans came within eight points of the Russians during the fourth quarter. *AP*

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: LPGA First Union Betsy King Classic at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

BOXING: Fight Time on Fox 2002 at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 7 a.m. (r - 5 p.m.) and 10 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

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Imus	Oct. 10-12
Biñan	Oct. 13-15
Urdaneta	Oct. 16-18
Los Baños	Oct. 19-21
Pampanga	Oct. 22-24
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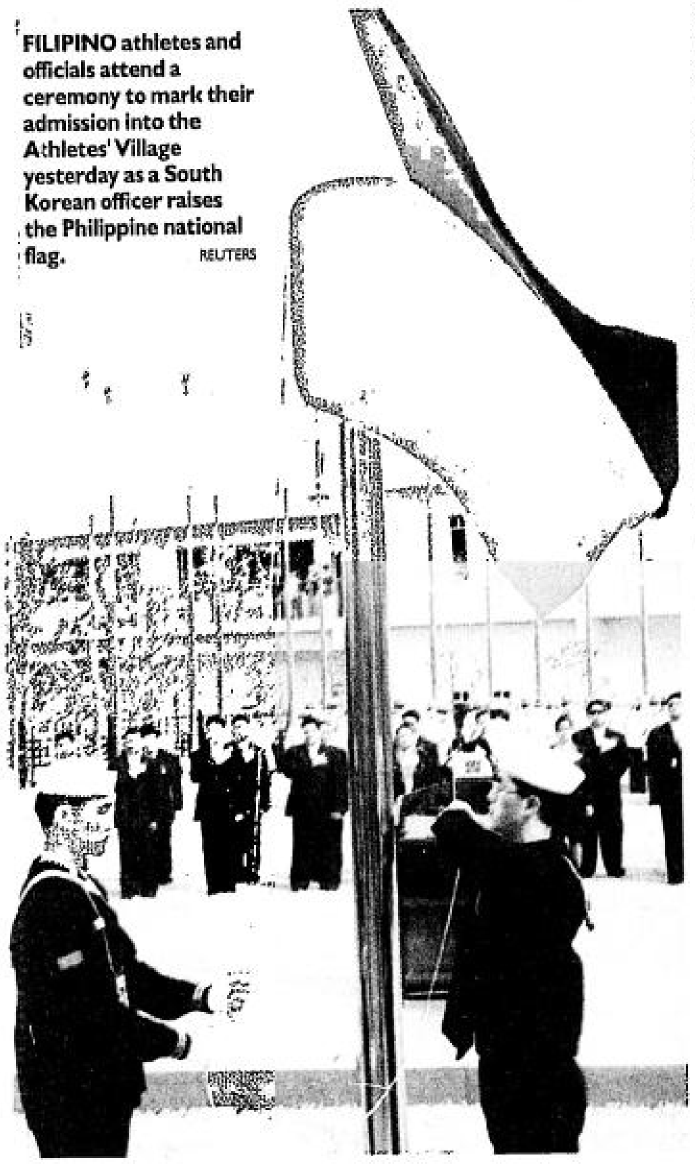
'We wish you a victorious result'



FILIPINO athletes and officials attend a ceremony to mark their admission into the Athletes' Village yesterday as a South Korean officer raises the Philippine national flag. REUTERS

BUSAN–The Philippine flag was formally raised at the Asian Games Athletes' Village here yesterday morning.

"We wish you a victorious result and hope you enjoy your stay," the mayor of the Busan Asian Games' Athletes Village, Wang Sang-eun, said after welcoming the Philippine delegation during the ceremony at the Flag Plaza.

"This is an important occasion . . . for this (flag-raising) ceremony officially recognizes our presence here," responded RP delegation chief de mission Tomas Carrasco Jr. during the 15-minute rites attended by more than 20 Filipino athletes led by equestrian rider Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and the boxers.

"More than our participation (in the Asian Games), our presence in the 17-day competition gives true meaning to our government's sincere appreciation of its long ties with your country," added Carrasco.

Fil-Am boxer Christopher Camat handed the RP flag over to a Korean volunteer, who hoisted it while the national anthem was played by a band.

The Village mayor and Carrasco swapped gifts before proceeding to a mid-morning reception.

Majority of the 40 Filipino athletes who are already here did not attend the ceremony to concentrate on their training. Among them were the archers, rowers and the four-man sailing team of Ridgely Balladares, Rommel Chavez, Joseph Jayson Villena and Lealyn Taroja.

The all-pro RP basketball team was scheduled to arrive late yesterday from Manila, while a big bulk of the delegation numbering 115 will fly in today.

Athletes from different countries, including North Korea which is vying for the first time in an international sports event held in South Korea, have started settling into their new home for the next three weeks.

The first wave of the RP delegation checked in Sunday together with those from Indonesia, Brunei, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Macau, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Chinese-Taipei. A total of 44 countries, including the newly independent East Timor, will compete in the largest Asiad ever.

On Monday, the North Koreans flew in here together with athletes from Bhutan, Qatar, Yemen, South Korea, Japan, Bahrain, Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar, China and Saudi Arabia.

The North Koreans attract a lot of attention. But everybody's eyes are focused on Nokor's—and undoubtedly the world's tallest basketball player—Ri Myong-hun, who stands at 7-foot-9.

Ri is easily a foot taller than many of his teammates, but the Nokor cagers' skills remain a big question mark. The Nokors are bracketed with the Filipinos in Group C.

Meanwhile, the Busan Asiad, official newspaper of the 14th Asian Games, reports that "about 10,000 athletes and officials will enjoy a deluxe apartment complex boasting 2,290 units in 20 separate high-rise buildings. The village can accommodate up to 14,000 people and includes 11 facilities for administration, entertainment and services."

Japan's aim: Secure 2nd spot in Busan tilt

TOKYO–Japan may need a reality check before the Asian Games.

It refuses to consider the idea of being upstaged by South Korea again, following its lower-keyed performance at the World Cup co-hosted by the two rival neighboring countries.

"We want to overtake South Korea and secure second spot no matter how and get the right feel ahead of the 2004 Athens Olympics," Japan's Asiad chief de mission Teruji Kogake says.

But Japan has a tough task ahead.

It has long been number three behind China and South Korea in regional sport and it's also battling South Korean home advantage with the multi-sport event being held in the South Korean city of Busan.

South Korea reached the semifinals for Asia's best-ever World Cup result, roared on by millions of near-fanatical fans brimming with national pride. Japan plunged into despair when it was knocked out in the last-16 round.

Kogake admitted: "It makes us shudder when we think about the support they displayed at the World Cup." Japan plans to field 659 athletes in all but one of the 38 Asiad sports, its largest ever sporting delegation sent abroad.

South Korea's 769 athletes will go gung-ho for more than 80 gold medals. *AFP*

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

RP cagers (from left) Dondon Hontiveros, Eric Menk, Noy Castillo, Chris Jackson, Asi Taulava and Olsen Racela relax prior to their departure for Busan, South Korea yesterday. ROGER MARGALLO

Pinoy dribblers hold . . .

From page A24

"We will know by tomorrow during the scheduled managers' meeting at 2 p.m."

Contesting Seigle's position are Mick Pennisi and Chris Jackson, simply because the two alternates can approximate the height and heft of Seigle, if not his talent.

The third alternate, Boyet Fernandez, is out of the question.

The other players who planed in with the team are Danny Ildefonso, Asi Taulava, Dennis Espino, Jeff Cariaso, Dondon Hontiveros, Olsen Racela, Rudy Hatfield, Kenneth Duremdes, Noy Castillo and Eric Menk.

The Filipinos will have the United Arab Emirates as their first opponent on Saturday, Sept. 28. They will next meet North Korea on Sept. 30 to complete their assignments on Group C.

"We really miss Danny (Seigle)" said Uichico. "He is really a big loss to the team because he has been a fixture to our patterns defensively and offensive."

But Uichico said that Seigle's teammates are in high spirits and have resolved to dedicate all their games to Seigle.

"I was watching the boys during the flight," said Bernardino. "And I could see that they were all upbeat. I had conversation with some of them and I can feel that they could really make it.'"

The Philippines will try to improve on its third-place finish in the Bangkok Asiad in 1998.

There are three players from that team who are now carryovers to this year's present squad—Duremdes, Racela and Cariaso.

A fourth man from that team—Allan Caidic—is now part of the coaching team together with Eric Altamirano and Binky Favis.

All three are assistant coaches to Uichico.

Also in the organization is Elmer Yanga, who was the team manager of the RP quintet when it was still known as the Selecta-RP Team.

"Although I'm not the team manager anymore, I strongly feel that I belong with them," said Yanga. "I will try my best in my own humble way to support them all the way."

Peace 2002 4th leg slated

THE FOURTH leg of the 2002 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or Peace 2002 reels off at 1 p.m. on Saturday (Sept. 28) at Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila.

Peace 2002 is open to business executives and professionals. Organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems and Land Bank, Peace 2002 is sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

For more information, contact the ACCA at tel. 892-8759.

Executives, particularly those in the middle level, are finding active chess, where each player is given thirty minutes to finish the game, an equally effective means of recreation and business at the same time as it offers them a chance to meet other business acquaintances at a very minimal cost in almost as minimal time.

They also agree that excellence in this type of game is a reasonably accurate predictor of success. At the top levels of play, the skills involved are all important in business. Among them are discipline, memory, speed thinking and coolness under pressure.

Some of these executives eventually carved a name for themselves in the field of executive chess. Started in 1992, the series' champions have included three-time titlist lawyer Jose Ventura Aspiras, credit specialist Joselito Cada, police major and engineer Melandro Singson, dentist Jenny Mayor and Dennis San Juan. Lawyer Rommel Tacorda holds the enviable record of winning five stages in one season of Peace.

Interschool meet

THE NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) will be staging the 2002 National Inter-School Chess Team Championship on Oct. 21-27.

The event is open to all private and public schools, colleges and universities in the country duly recognized by the Department of Education. For more details, call the NCFP secretariat at tel. nos. 435-1113 to 14.

5-stag derby today

A TOTAL of 80 quality fights will be lined up when the "San Pablo Heat 5-Stag Derby" fires off today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Derby sponsors are Pagcor and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drugs Inc.

Seven to eight fights per hour nonstop will be staged due to the big number of entries.

Laguna's Blandy Tolentino and Manny Santos, two of the most active derbyists in the national cockfighting scene, will host this one-day showdown.

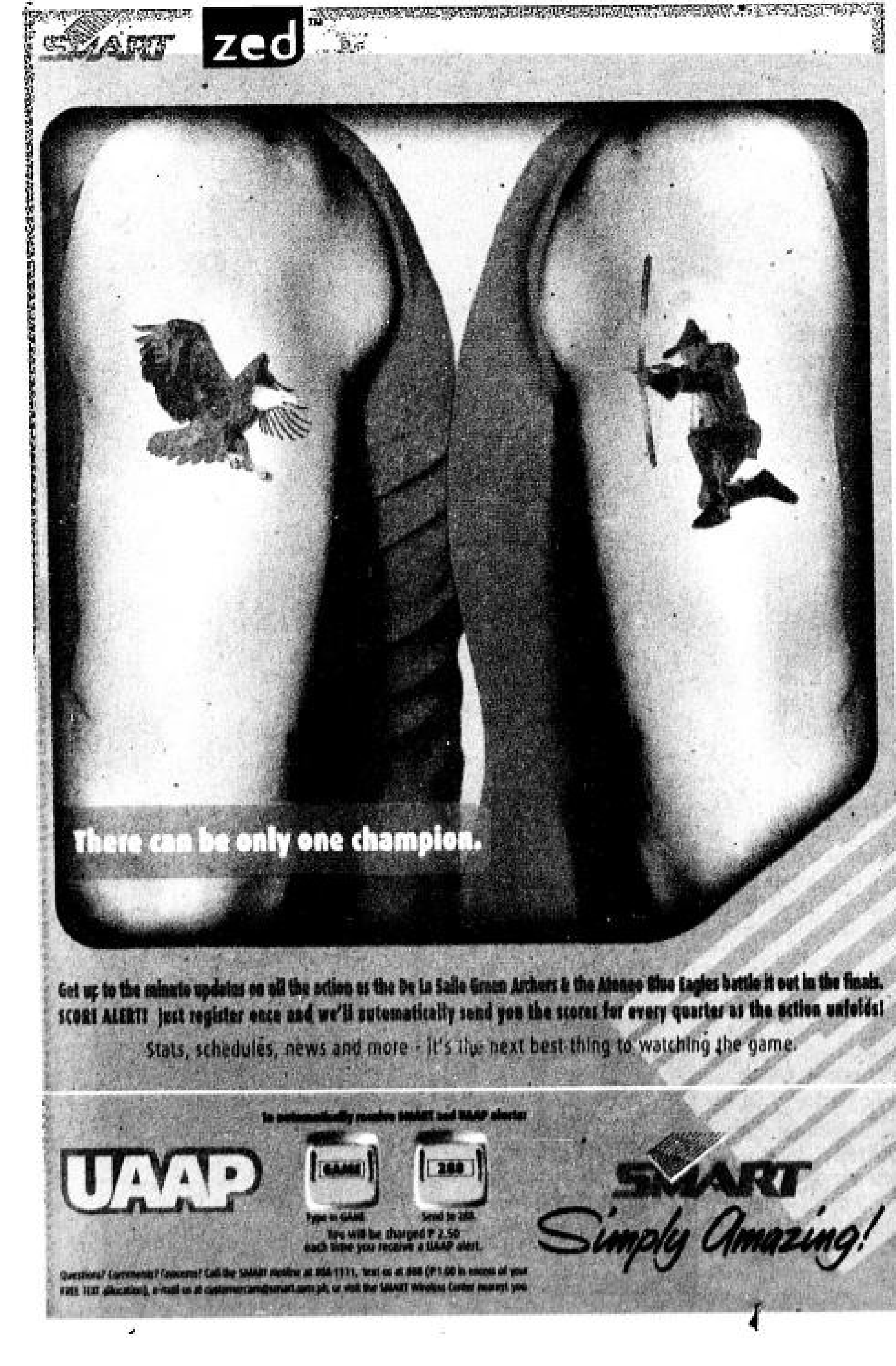
Seeing action today are prominent members of Ucap and NCA, to which Tolentino and Santos both belong.

Meanwhile, participants are reminded that submission of weights to the "Ucap Screening Committee 4-Stag Derby" is on Sunday, Sept. 29. The derby is set on Monday, Sept. 30 with Ariel Garovillo, Tiago Cerilla and Rey Oliveros as hosts.

For inquiries, contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 4110 and 535-2341.

PAUL HARRIS CUP

CGU Insurance International and Rotary Club Makati-Ayala (RCMA) joined hands in yet another endeavor to boost the fund raising campaign of RCMA's Project Roselle. CGU Insurance international headed by Philippines President Mike Gourlay (third from left) reaffirms its commitment to the Filipino people as presentor to the 7th Paul Harris Golf Tournament. Also shown in photo during the contract signing recently are (from left) Jun Ymson from the RCMA finance committee, RCMA Director for International Service Alberto Rosal, tournament director Bobby Roxas, Tom Pohang and Spencer Say, both from the RCMA. The 7th Paul Harris Cup is scheduled to tee off in November.



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Pacquiao to fight unbeaten US champ?

By Rey Danseco
Contributor

PACQUIAO

ANOTHER high-profile fight awaits International Boxing Federation super bantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao after promoters reportedly tapped him to fight an undefeated American champion in the United States.

If plans push through, Pacquiao would face IBF bantamweight titlist Tim Austin as an under card in the proposed World Boxing Association heavyweight title fight between Roy Jones Jr. and John Ruiz on Dec. 7.

Three cities are now being chosen to host the event, including Las Vegas, Atlantic City and New York.

A source from the United States said Carl King, son of American promoter Don King who is also Austin's manager, is interested in putting up the card featuring the four fighters.

Murad Muhammad of M & M Sports promotes Pacquiao and Jones while Austin and Ruiz are both under King's guidance.

Cable giant Home Box Office (HBO) is also reportedly keen on carrying the fights.

Pacquiao, who is currently training in Los Angeles, California, for the Oct. 26 title defense against Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym of Thailand, last fought in a HBO-produced fight that also featured the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson bout in Memphis, Tennessee, two months ago.

The 31-year-old Austin, who has a 25-0 record with 22 KOs, holds the IBF 118-lb title since July 1997, while Pacquiao won the IBF 122-lb crown in June 2000. Austin has made eight defenses in a row while Pacquiao twice retained his crown.

Meanwhile, organizers of the "Duel in Davao" headlining Pacquiao and Rakkiatgym of Thailand have decided to slash the price of the general admission tickets from P1,000 to P500.

Ryder Cup no laughing matter for Tiger; US favored vs Europe

By Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England–Tiger Woods had a million reasons why he wanted to win the World Golf Championship. He came up with one reason why that caused such a fuss.

He was only kidding.

"I was just trying to be funny," Woods said Tuesday, backing off his comments from last week in Ireland when he earned $1 million for winning the American Express Championship. "Obviously, things were taken way out of context."

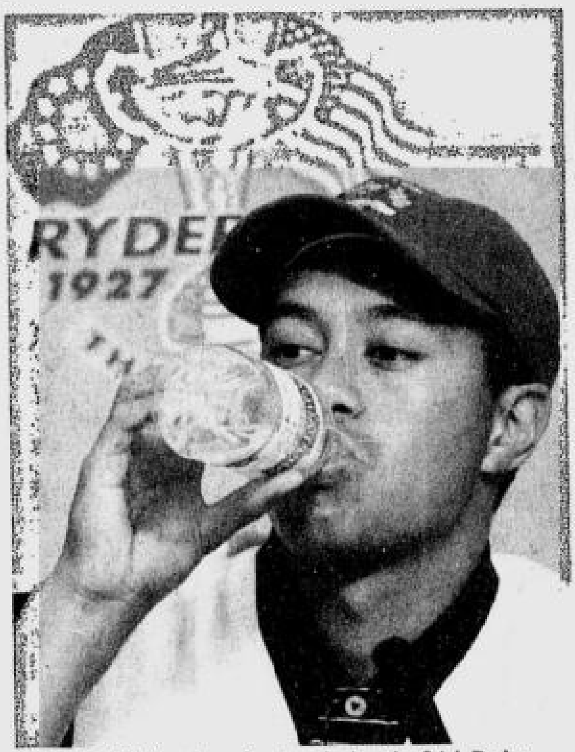
This week is no laughing matter.

The Americans again are favored to win the Ryder Cup, somewhat of a mystery since Europe has won five of the last eight times, and only once since 1983 have the matches been decided by more than two points.

The Ryder Cup has not been particularly kind to Woods, either.

One of the most glaring holes in an otherwise awesome record since he turned professional is his Ryder Cup record. Woods is a paltry 3-6-1 in two Ryder Cups, splitting his singles matches and taking on five partners in eight team matches.

"I wish it was better," he said. "That means I would have contributed more points to my team. But I haven't done that."


WOODS drinks mineral water during the 34th Ryder Cup press conference at The Belfry in Sutton, England on Tuesday. The golfest starts Saturday. AP

Woods slipped out of his Nike swooshes and into his Ryder Cup uniform—blue shirt with thin red and white stripes, a white vest and gray cap—for the first day of formal practice on a course only four players on the US team have played.

He spent his first night at The Belfry playing pingpong and had one spirited game against Phil Mickelson and his wife Amy. For 51 weeks out of the year, Woods is the No. 1 player in the world and the man everyone is trying to beat.

At the Ryder Cup, he is one of 12 players on a team.

"How would you feel if you had him on your team? Pretty good?" Scott Verplank said. "It's great. Last night we had a big team pingpong match, so we're all still very competitive, and we all still want to beat each other. But this week, we're all pulling for each other. And I think we're coming together nicely as a team."

He looked the same as he did last week, when he won in Ireland by making 24 birdies and an eagle in 72 holes at Mount Juliet.

Will he be any different at the Ryder Cup?

"I think anybody would be hard-pressed to say that man is not trying to win every time he puts a tee in the ground," Hal Sutton said. "I think there's more reason for him to want to win the Ryder Cup and do well in it, because that's one of the few times he hasn't done as well. I'm pretty sure his juices will be flowing this week."

Woods acknowledged that much.

While he joked last week there were "a million reasons why" he would rather win the American Express Championship, he said the Ryder Cup brought a different emotion, even comparing the matches to the final round in a major championship.

"They're two completely different animals," Woods said. "You're a lot more juiced on the first tee here than you are in a normal tour event, just because if you get off to a bad start you can lose a match. You get off to a bad start in a tournament, you can still win."

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Rockies victory gives D'backs playoff spot

ST. LOUIS, Missouri–Another game, another chance to clinch a playoff spot squandered by the Arizona Diamondbacks, but the reigning World Series champions will play in the postseason thanks to the Colorado Rockies' win over Los Angeles.

Edgar Renteria plated pinch runner So Taguchi with a two-out single in the bottom of the ninth inning as the St. Louis Cardinals handed the Diamondbacks their season-high fifth straight loss 3-2.

Despite the defeat, the Diamondbacks still nailed down a playoff spot when the Los Angeles Dodgers lost 1-0 to the Colorado Rockies.

After Arizona rallied to tie it in the top of the ninth, Albert Pujols walked with one out in the bottom of the frame against Mike Fetters (3-3). Taguchi ran for Pujols and stole second as Ivan Cruz struck out.

Renteria ripped Fetters' 0-1 offering just inside third base to score Taguchi and secure Tony La Russa's 600th victory as Cardinals' manager. *AFP*

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Race 3–1. Thunder Strike 2. Gleaming Heart 3. Lady Witty

Race 4–1. Nice Tim3 2. Graceful Ann

Race 5–1. Khan Caloo/Hacker 2. Cat's Bells 3. Cosanne 4. Going Free

Race 6–1. Armee's Hope 2. Cherish Emblem 3. Key to Heaven 4. Voltes May 5. Cardinal Rule 6. Kathy Rose

Race 7–1. May's Magic 2. Run Doding Fly 3. Something Silver 4. Party Princess 5. Enseguida

Race 8–1. Classic Model 2. D Pen Traveller 3. Shuttle's Magic 4. Time Specialist

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BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NY Yankees 6, Tampa Bay 0; Toronto 11, Baltimore 1; Boston 4, Chicago White Sox 2; Texas 2, Anaheim 1; Minnesota 4, Cleveland 3; Kansas City 17, Detroit 2; Oakland at Seattle.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Florida 9, Montreal 6; Philadelphia 5, Atlanta 3; Pittsburgh 6, NY Mets 3; Cincinnati 1, Chicago Cubs 0; St. Louis 3, Arizona 2; Milwaukee 3, Houston 1; Colorado at Los Angeles; San Diego at San Francisco. AP

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Pinoy dribblers hold practice today

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN—The Philippine team will hold its practice in a rented downtown gym here today in preparation for its Asian Games basketball campaign.

The practice was immediately scheduled last night by head coach Jong Uichico shortly upon the team's arrival from Manila.

"The boys need to shake off a leg immediately so that their rhythm will not be disturbed," said Uichico. "The schedule of 9 a.m. to 12 noon will have to be maintained because that was our standard practice schedule in the Philippines."

There were only 14 players who boarded the PAL jet that left Manila at exactly 2:20 p.m. yesterday.

The flight took three hours and 20 minutes and the plane touched down at exactly 6:40 p.m.

Danny Seigle was not with the team.

Seigle's achilles heel, operated on last Monday at St. Luke's Hospital, needs at least six months to heal.

He suffered the injury last Sunday during the RP-Qatar tuneup match at the Araneta Coliseum.

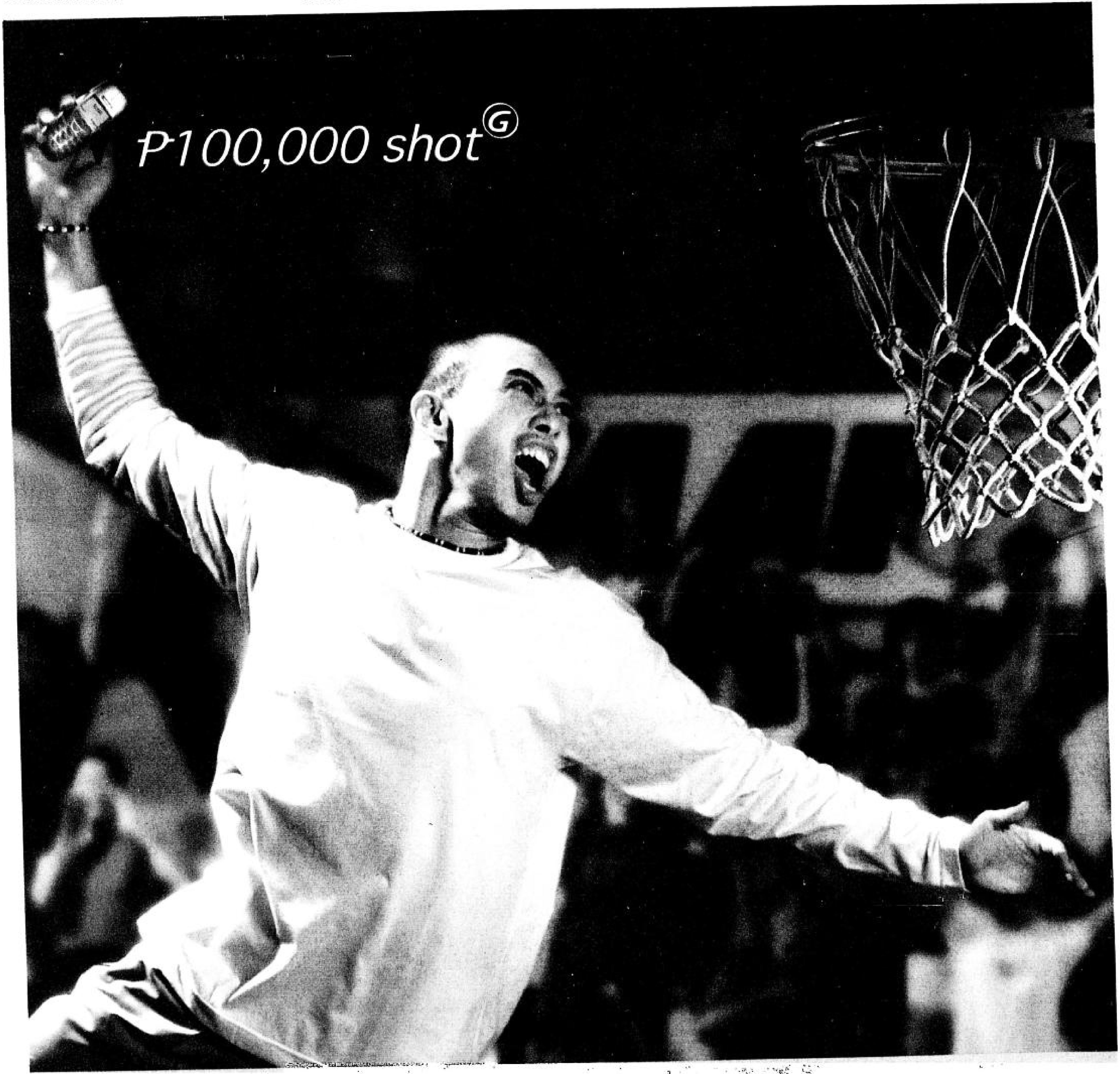
But Seigle will plane in on Saturday together with his surgeon Dr. George Canlas.

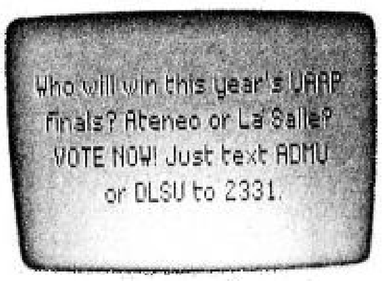
"We still don't know who will replace Danny (Seigle)," said Jun Bernardino, the team manager of the RP team.

PINOY/ A22

MEMBERS of the RP team are shown before they left for Busan, South Korea, site of the 2002 Asian Games, yesterday. In front are team manager Jun Bernardino (right) and Elmer Yanga. Also shown (from left) are Dennis Espino, Boyet Fernandez, Andy Seigle, Jeffrey Cariaso, Eric Menk, Noy Castillo, Mick Pennisi, Dondon Hontiveros, Chris Jackson, Kenneth Duremdes and Allan Caidic.

ROGER MARGALLO





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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

MMDA guard kills vendor

By Leila B. Salaverria

A TRAFFIC enforcement officer guarding the Metro Manila Development Authority's sidewalk clearing operations shot and killed a vendor who had fired at the police officer in Makati on Tuesday.

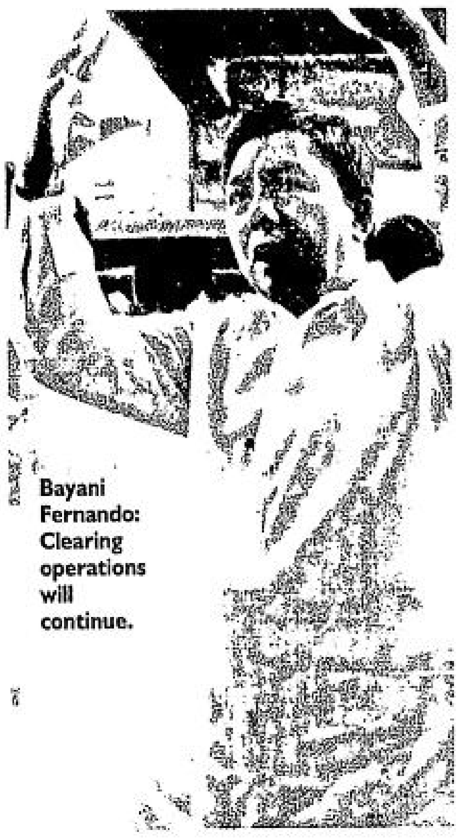
Police said vendor Iladio Tuacar, an ex-military officer and a resident of PNR, South Bangkal, Makati City, fired two shots at SPO2 Sabado M. Pujeda, who was with MMDA personnel confiscating the wares and removing the sidewalk stalls along Edsa Mantrade near Dasmariñas Village.

The killing, which happened around at around 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, was the most violent incident in the often chaotic MMDA operations.

Police said Tuacar's shots, fired from a 9mm gun, did not hit Pujeda.

Upon hearing the shots, Pujeda, a member of the Traffic Enforcement Group and assigned to the MMDA, fired back and hit Tuacar in different parts of the body, said PO2 Juancho Ibis of the Makati Police.

MMDA/ A26



Bayani Fernando: Clearing operations will continue.

Bullets rain on actor's house in Quezon City

By Alcuin Papa

THE HOUSE of matinee idol Diether Ocampo in Quezon City was raked with gunfire early yesterday morning.

Police suspect Ocampo's relationship with the sister of controversial Video Regulatory Board (VRB) Chair Ramon Revilla Jr. may have something to do with the shooting.

According to a police report, armed men opened fire on Ocampo's house in Quezon City at around 4:30 a.m.

Members of the Central Police District's Scene of the Crime Operations (SOCO) unit recovered spent shells from a 9-mm firearm in the area.

Ocampo refused to issue a statement on the incident.

The actor is reportedly dating Revilla's sister Andrea Bautista.

CPD investigators who requested their names be withheld said that Revilla's high-profile campaign against illegal manufacturers and dealers of pirated VCDs and DVDs in Metro Manila could also be the motive for the shooting.

Two of Revilla's bodyguards had already been ambushed in the past, the investigators added.

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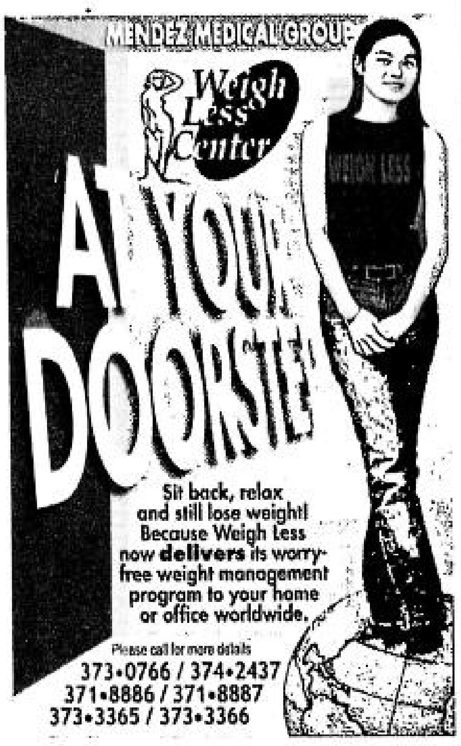

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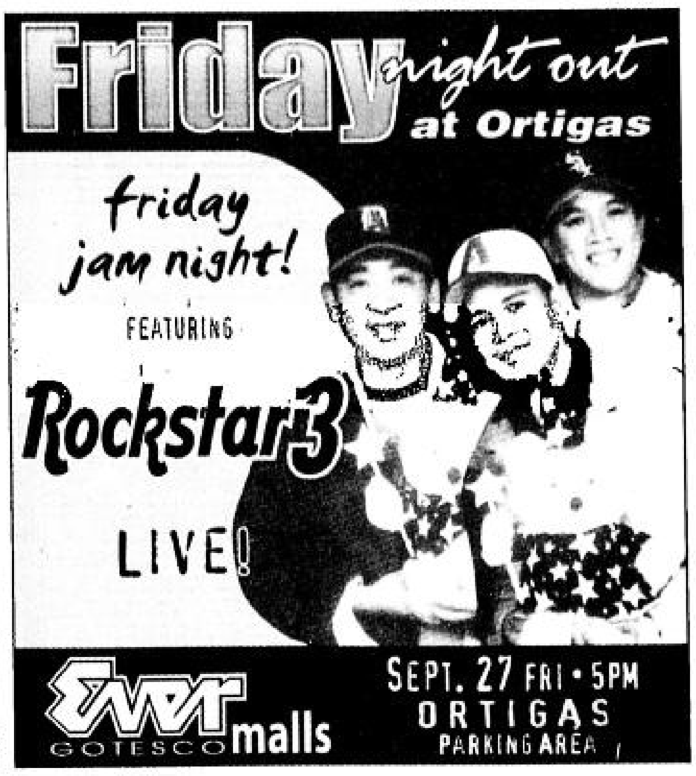

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Raps readied in slay of ex-Journal fotog

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE MANILA police yesterday prepared to file murder charges against two men for the killing of former People's Journal photographer Perry Baluyot.

The victim's killer Opao Macalaba, or Opao Batarra, and Tondo barangay officer Muhad S. Pumbaya, alias Kagawad Mitex, both natives of Lanao Del Sur, face murder raps, said Detective Alfredo Salazar, of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Pumbaya helped Macalaba escape on board a red scooter after the killing. Police recovered the red Motor Star scooter on Tuesday afternoon, Salazar said.

Both suspects are at large, he added.

"We are only waiting for the victim's relatives before we file the charges (at the Manila Prosecutor's Office)," Salazar said.

He said police have three witnesses in the case.

One of them saw the two suspects escape on the scooter right after Macalaba stabbed Baluyot in the back on Sunday afternoon in Tondo.

"The witness was waiting for a taxi at the Port Area's Gate 4 when he saw them drive off. We have the witness' sworn statement," Salazar said.

This same witness gave the police a description of the scooter. When the police heard that it was left outside Pumbaya's house at the corner of 12th and Atlanta streets at the Port Area, they went there together with the witness.

Barangay captain Ibrahim Macalanta had denied that the red scooter the police confiscated was the one used in the crime.

But the witness' description matched that of Pumbaya's scooter, and it was confiscated.

Bank personnel helping robbers, says top prober

By Tina Santos

ALMOST all or 99 percent of bank robberies in Metro Manila involved bank employees and security guards, a high-ranking Caloocan City police official revealed yesterday.

Station intelligence and investigation chief Supt. Dionisio Borromeo said these bank personnel act as "fingers" who provide vital information to robbery syndicates.

Borromeo said that the usual stake out and surveillance usually conducted by prospective robbers outside the bank are no longer enough for them to pull off a successful heist.

"Syndicate fingers or moles, usually lowly paid staff, also security guards, figure in about 99 percent of bank robberies," the officer explained.

Borromeo, who recently met with some 35 bank officials Caloocan for a briefing following three successive bank robberies in the city, said the "fingers" who have free access inside the bank feed the syndicate such information as banking hours, peak and low hours, schedule or cash deliveries by armored vehicles and movement of personnel.

He said these information are fed to and used by the syndicate in staging quick, precise attacks in pulling off a heist.

Borromeo said that among the lowest paid bank employees involve janitorial and messengerial staff and guards who are easily corrupted by robbery syndicates in exchange for vital information or access to targeted banks.

However, the police officer added that even high-ranking bank officials in dire need of money are also being used by the syndicates.

Borromeo likewise lamented the alleged non-cooperation of bank officials in helping solve the robberies.

"It's unfortunate that bank officials are usually very uncooperative. It is our impression that they don't really care (about apprehending the robbers). They got nothing to lose since the insurance company will take care of the lost money so they let it go at that," Borromeo said.

The officer observed that most banks, despite the risk of losing millions to robbers, do not so much invest in monitoring devices such as closed circuit television which only cost about half a million pesos.

He said there are about 95 banks in Caloocan City but none of them has a CCTV installed as a deterrent device.

"I hope the top management would act on this. CCTV are effective deterrents. Bank robbers would think twice before doing anything wrong if the banks have this kind of device installed," Borromeo said.

Joma Sison should be extradited

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

JOSE Ma. Sison, chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), allegedly lives in poverty in the Netherlands after its government froze his bank accounts.

So, his puppets in the country are now collecting funds to keep him alive. Militant students have passed the hat around for Joma, who has been living in self-exile abroad when he should be fighting for his cause here.

Until recently, when the US included the CPP and the New People's Army (NPA) in its list of terrorist organizations, Sison was living in style in the Netherlands. He lived off the benefits of the welfare state.

* * *

The government should seek the help of the Dutch government in having Sison brought back to the Philippines to face trial for the Plaza Miranda bombing.

Although we don't have an extradition treaty with Netherlands, we can ask the US government to intercede for us.

Sison should be made to account for the dastardly grenade -throwing incident 31 years ago that nearly wiped out the Liberal Party slate. New testimonies and evidence have surfaced pointing to Sison as the mastermind

* * *

Many people still believe that it was Ferdinand Marcos who ordered the Plaza Miranda bombing.

Even if new evidence and testimonies point to Sison as the mastermind, still people cling to their belief that Marcos was responsible for that dastardly act.

Some people in and out of government, because of their intense hatred for Marcos, perpetuate the lie that Marcos, and not Sison, ordered the bombing. This is dangerous because such thinking might be written down as a historical fact. History is a true account of a country's past.

* * *

Retired Manila police Col. Vicente Palmon is being denounced by his former peers at the Western Police District (WPD) for allegedly stealing the money of many retirees through fraud.

Palmon used to head Manila's Finest Brotherhood, an organization of non-officer members of the WPD, when he was still in the service. He projected an image of a cop who was concerned with the welfare of his fellow cops.

But when he set up the Police Savings and Loan Association Inc. (Poslai) in retirement, Palmon allegedly made a complete turn-around. Instead of helping his fellow retirees and active cops, Palmon has stolen their money through illegal deductions in their paychecks.

* * *

Retired Manila police Col. Felicisimo Lazaro, chair and president of the Manila's Finest Retirees Association Inc., said that Palmon's Poslai has colluded with some people at the PNP Finance Center in Camp Crame in making the illegal deductions.

Lazaro said that Poslai's "favorite prey are policemen from far-flung provinces, mostly those assigned in Northern provinces, Visayas and Mindanao."

Because of their distance from Metro Manila, and the great efforts and expenses in coming to Manila to file their complaints against Poslai, these cops just suffer in silence, according to Lazaro.

Lazaro said that 23 counts of estafa have been filed against Palmon and other members of the board of trustees of Poslai.

* * *

I was covering the WPD as a crime reporter when Palmon was the president of Manila's Finest Brotherhood. This was in the late 70's and middle 80's.

Back then, I distrusted Palmon because of his sneaky look and distorted face.

That kind of face couldn't be trusted, I thought. But I kept the suspicion to myself.

MMDA guard kills vendor

From page A25

The MMDA Rescue Team rushed Tuacar to the Ospital ng Makati for treatment, but he was pronounced dead an hour later.

Police recovered Tuacar's gun along with an empty shell and 11 live ammunition.

Pujeda was brought to the Makati Police for investigation and his service firearm, a .38 revolver, confiscated.

A total of 11 police officers from the TEG accompanied the MMDA personnel who were conducting clearing operations against sidewalk vendors on Tuesday. Police officers are usually deployed to the MMDA's clearing operations mainly to protect the unarmed MMDA personnel.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday that, despite the violent incident, sidewalk clearing operations would continue.

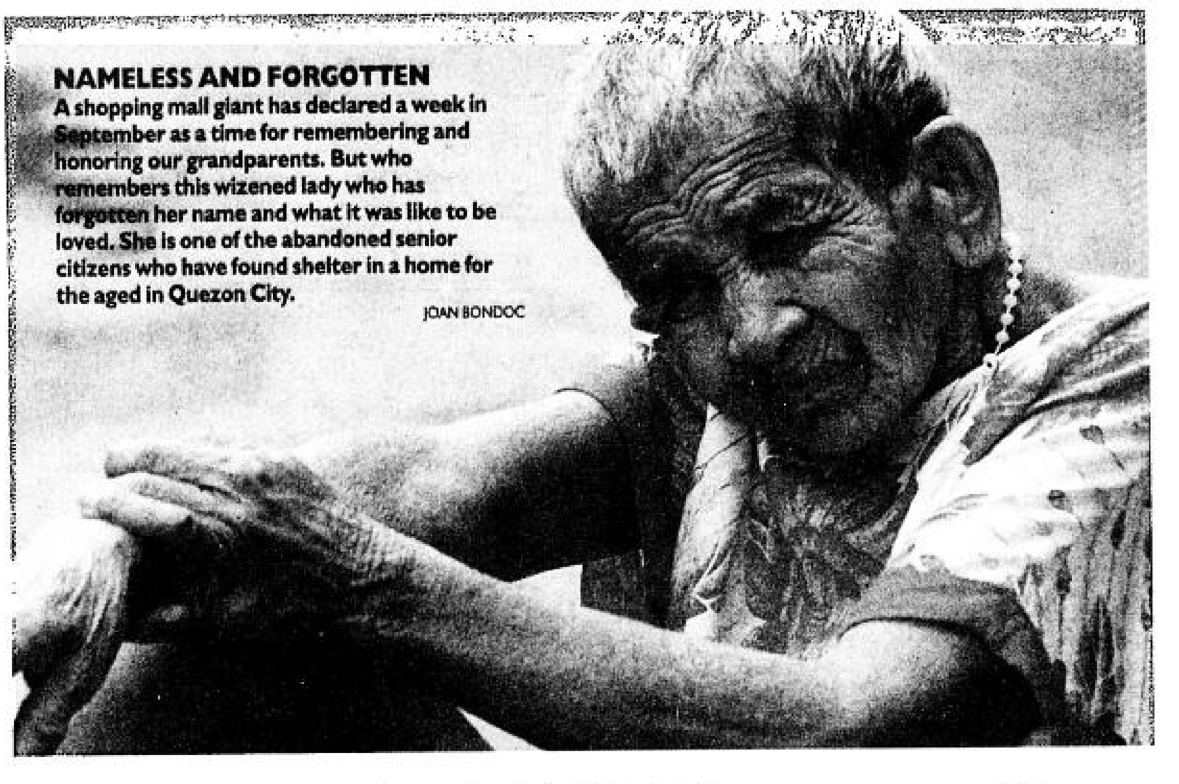
"*Tuloy-tuloy yan* (We won't stop our operations)," he said yesterday.

He told reporters that it was but natural for Pujeda to shoot back after Tuacar fired at the police officer.

"*Wala kaming nakikitang pagkakamali na ginawa ng pulis. Natural lamang na magbalik ng putok ang pulis* (I don't see anything wrong about the police officer's action. It's only natural for him to shoot back at the vendor)," Fernando said.

Shortly after stepping in as MMDA chair, Fernando vowed to rid the sidewalks of all obstructions, including vendors. He has ordered his men to confiscate and destroy the vendors' wares.

Sidewalk vendors and urban poor groups have been taking to the streets to protest the MMDA operations, which they describe as "inhumane" and "Hitler-like."



NAMELESS AND FORGOTTEN
A shopping mall giant has declared a week in September as a time for remembering and honoring our grandparents. But who remembers this wizened lady who has forgotten her name and what it was like to be loved. She is one of the abandoned senior citizens who have found shelter in a home for the aged in Quezon City.
JOAN BONDOC

NBI to probe MTRCB anomalies

By Philip Tubeza and Marinel R. Cruz

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said his men will look into the alleged anomalies in the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

While saying he has not read MTRCB chair Mari-Len Dinglasan's complaint letter against several MTRCB employees and contractors, Wycoco promised to find out if Dinglasan's complaints have "enough basis."

"I will direct (our) legal (division) to investigate ... once we determine that there is a basis," Wycoco said in a phone interview.

Dinglasan's complaint also drew flak from Armida Siguion-Reyna, former chair of the MTRCB, whose name was brought up in the complaint.

In a statement, Siguion-Reyna yesterday said the current censors chief is "simply trying to divert focus away" from Dinglasan's pending estafa case.

Dinglasan and her husband have been accused of issuing a bounced check worth P50,000 in 1986.

Dinglasan wrote Wycoco on Monday to complain about several anomalies in the MTRCB, involving millions of pesos in public funds.

She even accused some MTRCB officers of trying to bribe her to release two checks worth P918,000—the full payment for the repair of the board's office in Cubao, even though the repair work is far from complete.

The anomalies allegedly involved the transfer of the board's headquarters from the Atlanta Gold Hills Tower in Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan to Aurora Milestones building in Cubao, and then to Presidents Tower in Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

Two board members allegedly brokered the transfer and pocketed millions of pesos.

Dinglasan mentioned the "gross disadvantageous lease contract allowing the forfeiture of approximately P80,000 in rental deposits and P7 million," which happened during the term of Siguion-Reyna.

But Siguion-Reyna denied this and said the transfer of the MTRCB office, which caused the pre-termination of rental, did not happen when she was still with the board.

"The transfer was out of my hands, it occurred under MTRCB Chair Alejandro Roces' term," said Siguion-Reyna who is currently on vacation in New York.

"When Roces told me they wanted to move out of the Atlanta Office because the MTRCB members and workers no longer felt safe in the building, I pointed out they stood to forfeit the money for rental deposits for what was supposed to have been a five-year lease."

But she said she could not blame the Roces board for wanting to leave Atlanta Towers because "Nida Blanca was a well-loved MTRCB member.

"Her gruesome killing really scared everyone in the office," she said.

Siguion-Reyna added that the P7 million allocated for the renovation of the office was in the MTRCB budget and all were accounted for in receipts.

"I make it my business to know these things because that's how careful I am with money matters," Siguion-Reyna said.

Honest driver

TAXI DRIVER Peligrino C. Plaza, 35, of Surigao City could have kept for himself or sold the Nokia 3310 cellular phone left in his cab by two passengers he had dropped off at Barangay Pio Del Pilar in Makati. Instead, Plaza waited for the cell phone's owner to call.

At 11 a.m. yesterday, the cell phone rang. The call was from Diwa Aquino, editorial office assistant of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Southern Luzon Bureau.

She was calling the owner of the cell phone, bureau chief Floreño G. Solmirano, who was attending a meeting at the PDI head office.

About 3 p.m. yesterday, Plaza arrived at the PDI head office to return Solmirano's cell phone.

Plaza, a father of three, refused to accept monetary reward for returning the phone. He said it was the fourth time he had returned a phone that passengers had left in his taxi.

METROBRIEFS

Hacked to death

PAINTER Norberto Albaytar of Libis Camarin in Caloocan was on his way home on Tuesday night when three drunken men allegedly hacked him to death with a bolo, according to Supt. Loreto Malaybalay, deputy commander of the Caloocan Police sub-station 4. He said Albaytar's head was almost chopped off. Officer-on-case Dicoroso Domingo of the Caloocan Police Investigation Unit identified the suspects as Joseph Arnaldo, 35, Rodolfo Albelyo, 37, and Elberto Pepito, 43. The three were on a drinking binge at 8:30 p.m. in Donya Subdivision, Barangay 175, Camarin when they chanced upon the victim. The drunken group allegedly ganged up on Albaytar for unknown reasons. Police yesterday arrested Albelyo and Pepito, but Arnaldo escaped.

Tina Santos

Demolition in Navotas

A ROUTINE demolition by the Department of Public Workers and Highways and local authorities in Navotas in North Bay Boulevard North yesterday turned ugly when residents formed human barricades and hurled stones and pillboxes at the demolition team. Several residents, who have yet to be identified, were injured in the demolition that left hundreds of families homeless, police said. Witnesses said the DPWH demolition team and truckloads of men from the Navotas police started to dismantle the shanties at about 10 a.m. yesterday. At least 140 houses were demolished as part of a road widening project by the local government. Authorities said most of the houses were built along the road and hindered the smooth flow of traffic. The local government will send the dislocated families to a relocation site at Towerville Subdivision in Bulacan. *T.Santos.*

Rise in fire incidents

A TOTAL of 4,657 fires were reported during the first five months of this year, compared to 3,631 fire incidents recorded during the same period in 2001, according to Bureau of Fire Protection chief Francisco S. Senot.

He said the increase was brought about by 1,914 forest and grass fires from January to May 2002, compared to only 722 for the same period the previous year. Buildings or structures that went up in smoke also registered some increase, from 1,914 fires during the first five months of this year to 1,525 fires for the same period in 2001, or a variance of 25.51 percent. Senot said property losses worth P2.129 billion were recorded in January to May 2002, compared to P2.886 billion for the same period the previous year.

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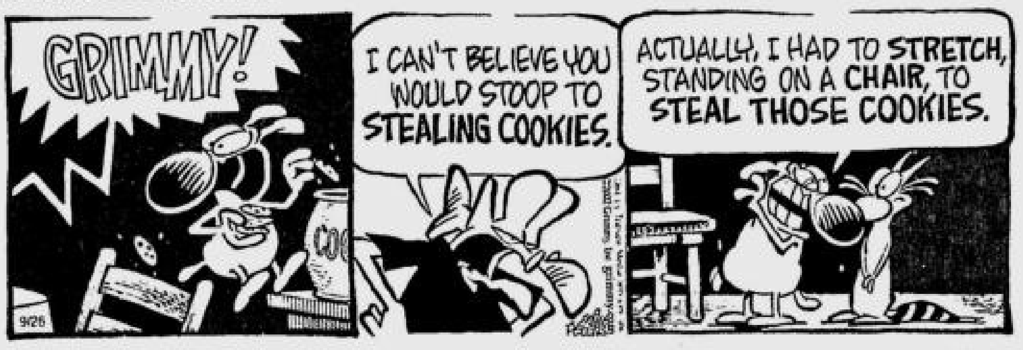
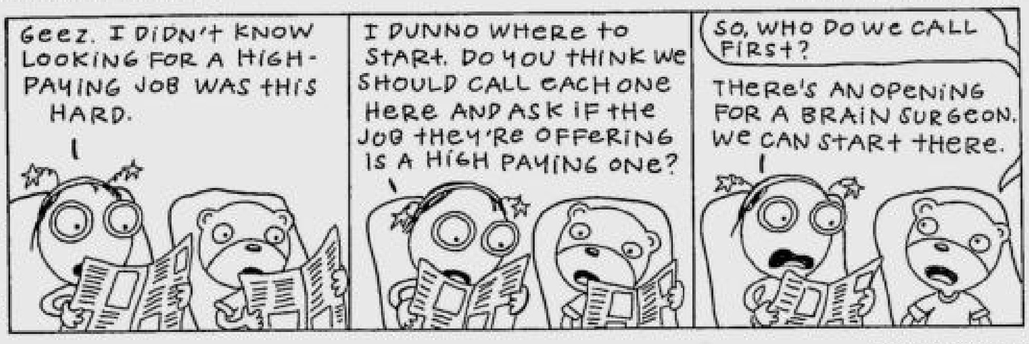
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMMY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WOULD STOOP TO STEALING COOKIES.
ACTUALLY, I HAD TO STRETCH, STANDING ON A CHAIR, TO STEAL THOSE COOKIES.
9/26

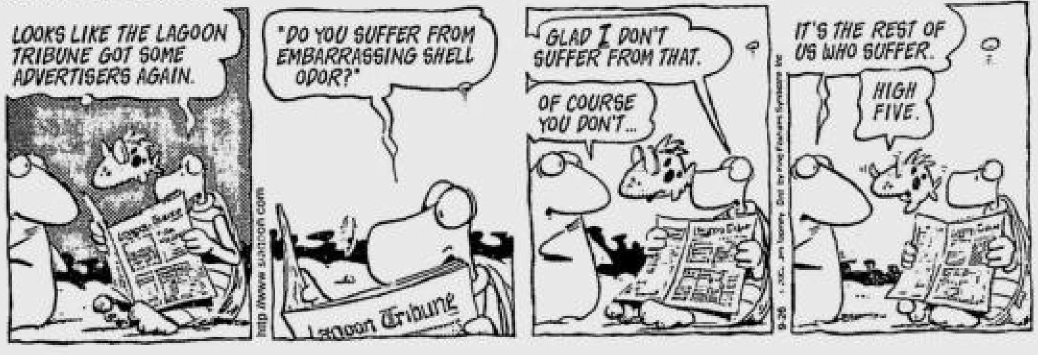
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


GEEZ. I DIDN'T KNOW LOOKING FOR A HIGH-PAYING JOB WAS THIS HARD.
I DUNNO WHERE TO START. DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD CALL EACH ONE HERE AND ASK IF THE JOB THEY'RE OFFERING IS A HIGH PAYING ONE?
SO, WHO DO WE CALL FIRST?
THERE'S AN OPENING FOR A BRAIN SURGEON. WE CAN START THERE.

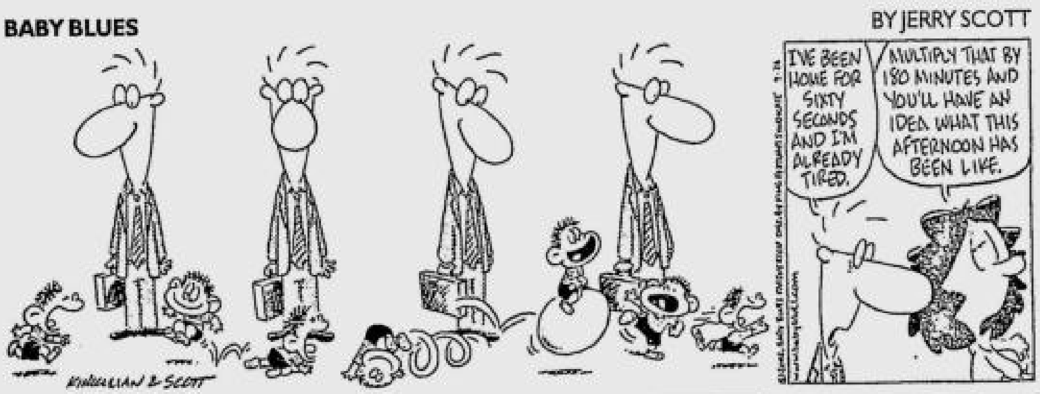
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


LOOKS LIKE THE LAGOON TRIBUNE GOT SOME ADVERTISERS AGAIN.
"DO YOU SUFFER FROM EMBARRASSING SHELL ODOR?"
Lagoon Tribune
GLAD I DON'T SUFFER FROM THAT.
OF COURSE YOU DON'T...
IT'S THE REST OF US WHO SUFFER.
HIGH FIVE.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


KIRKMAN & SCOTT
I'VE BEEN HOME FOR SIXTY SECONDS AND I'M ALREADY TIRED.
MULTIPLY THAT BY 180 MINUTES AND YOU'LL HAVE AN IDEA WHAT THIS AFTERNOON HAS BEEN LIKE.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mary Beth Hurt, Olivia Newton-John, George Gershwin, Kent McCord

Happy Birthday: Although you will attract a lot of attention this year, you will also be inclined to make poor choices and to act abruptly. Think before you take action and thus avoid difficult circumstances. Your dedication and loyalty to others will be rewarded. This is a year to expand your friendships Your numbers are 2, 15, 28, 32, 37, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Finish up some of the projects that you left hanging. If you show a little enthusiasm, you will spark initiative in others. New relationships can develop today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will want to make some special plans for yourself and someone you enjoy being with. Talk about the way you feel or what your intentions are. Don't let distance stop you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Work on yourself and your environment. Put aside any differences you might have with others and look to the future optimistically. Rid yourself of the people holding you back.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try to do things yourself and you will gain greater respect. A little charming chatter coupled with hard work should cinch the deal you are trying to make.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be feeling a little uncertain about your work and your position. Don't make a decision based on hearsay. You will be inclined to take things out of context.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Meeting and interacting with people who have a different perspective on life will open your eyes to all sorts of possibilities. Sign up for any courses that may bring you that additional knowledge.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone who can't handle something by himself may call upon you for help. Take the time to sort out your personal thoughts. Confusion may have been an issue in the past but now you can move forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Trouble may be brewing if you aren't willing to compromise. You can expect to face opposition or even rejection if you are possessive or insecure. Take on a little more responsibility.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Although you should be able to accomplish a lot today, someone you work with may try to get you to help do all the work. Stick to your own job. Avoid getting involved in gossip.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Social activity should be high on your list, but it shouldn't cost you too much. You must be careful not to overextend yourself with expensive entertainment, shopping or gambling.

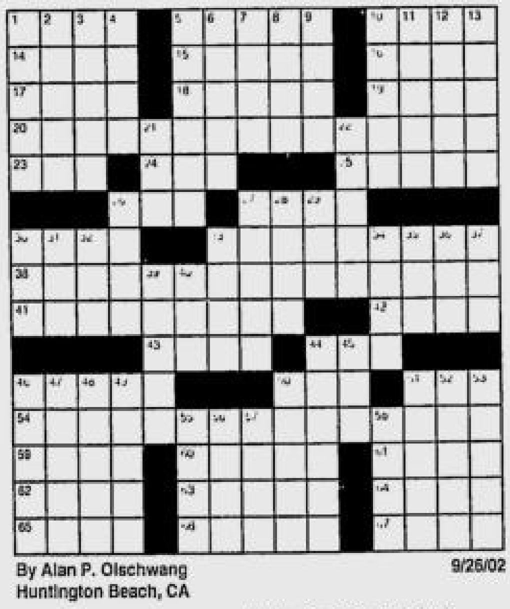
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is not the best day to bring up personal issues with loved ones. Get out and enjoy yourself with friends who won't put limitations or demands on you. You will come across a wonderful idea today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may want to travel for business today, but you can probably accomplish just as much over the phone. Don't add to your expenses unnecessarily. Plan to get together with friends or neighbors.

Birthday Baby: You will be changeable and hard to predict throughout your life. You will be full of wonderful ideas. You will do everything with gusto, always wanting to outdo and outperform whatever competition you face.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

9/26/02

ACROSS
1 Mild expletive
5 This puzzle's theme
10 Tranquility discipline
14 Flounder cousin
15 Jai alai basket
16 All tied up
17 Sound of a disappearance
18 Tasty tidbit
19 Zero
20 Time for a low turnout
23 Frequently in a poem
24 Former queen of Spain
25 Attacked
26 Turn right!
27 Patriot Nathan
30 Westernmost of the Aleutians
33 Astrologers' diagram
38 Contender for 5A
41 In a nutshell
42 Type of tale
43 Phoenician city
44 Check out
46 Ice-cream cake
50 Important time
51 King or carte lead-in
54 Jury determination
59 Machu Picchu resident
60 Massenet opera
61 Transgressions
62 U follower?
63 Chilling
64 Tennis bad boy Nastase
65 Dalmatian feature
66 Stops for ships
67 Mailed

DOWN
1 Helsinki suburb
2 Explode
3 Overhead
4 Challenge
5 Gasoline rating number
6 Yankee Yogi
7 Oh yeah, right
8 Lat. list-ender
9 Cloy
10 Jewish gossip
11 Egg-shaped
12 Italian port
13 Concerning
21 Shoe-box letters
22 Fischer's forte
26 Mariana island
27 Games expert
28 Salvation collective
29 Bud's partner
30 Iron-pumper's pride
31 Play about Capote
32 Manx male
33 Samson's pride
34 Quote as an authority
35 S. American tuber
36 Chum
37 Building wing
39 Saw socially
40 Dryly humorous
44 Obliterates
45 Thanksgiving tuber
46 Enticements
47 Confess
48 Very large in scale
49 Arctic goose
50 Proclamation
51 Quick on one's feet
52 Last name in Communism
53 Plus
55 Standstill
56 It can't be!
57 So-so
58 Fire-sale words

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

B	E	E	P	S	■	P	I	N	C	H	■	T	A	M
A	T	R	I	P	■	S	N	A	R	E	■	U	F	O
C	H	A	P	U	L	T	E	P	E	C	■	I	T	O
H	E	T	E	R	O	■	R	E	T	A	I	L	E	R
S	L	O	T	■	L	S	T	■	O	T	T	E	R	S
■	■	■	T	A	L	C	■	S	N	E	E	R	■	■
S	P	R	E	E	■	R	Y	A	N	■	M	I	C	A
A	L	E	■	F	L	E	E	C	E	D	■	E	O	N
G	O	D	S	■	O	A	T	H	■	O	R	S	O	N
■	■	S	O	D	O	M	■	E	D	G	E	■	■	■
S	E	Q	U	I	N	■	U	M	A	■	C	A	M	P
E	M	U	L	S	I	O	N	■	T	A	I	P	E	I
D	E	A	■	C	E	N	T	R	A	L	P	A	R	K
A	R	R	■	O	S	T	I	A	■	V	E	R	G	E
N	Y	E	■	S	T	O	L	E	■	A	S	T	E	R

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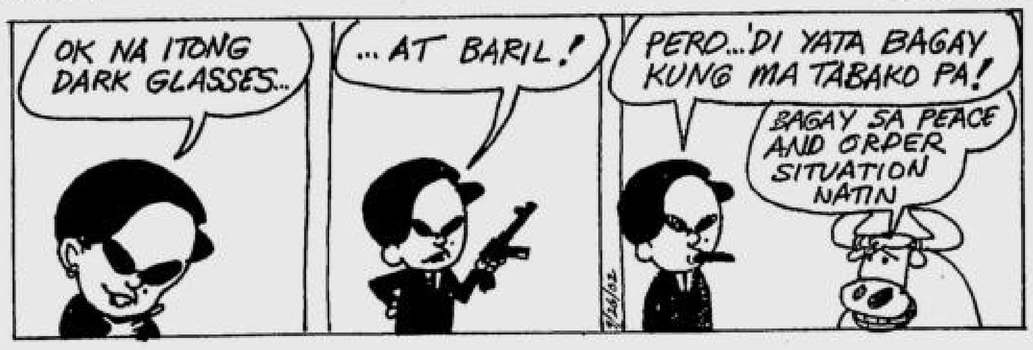
9/26/02

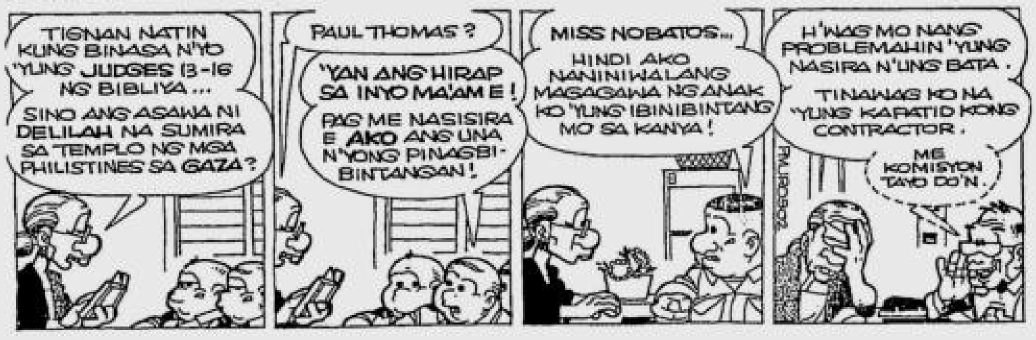
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


OK NA ITONG DARK GLASSES...
... AT BARIL!
PERO... 'DI YATA BAGAY KUNG MA TABAKO PA!
BAGAY SA PEACE AND ORDER SITUATION NATIN

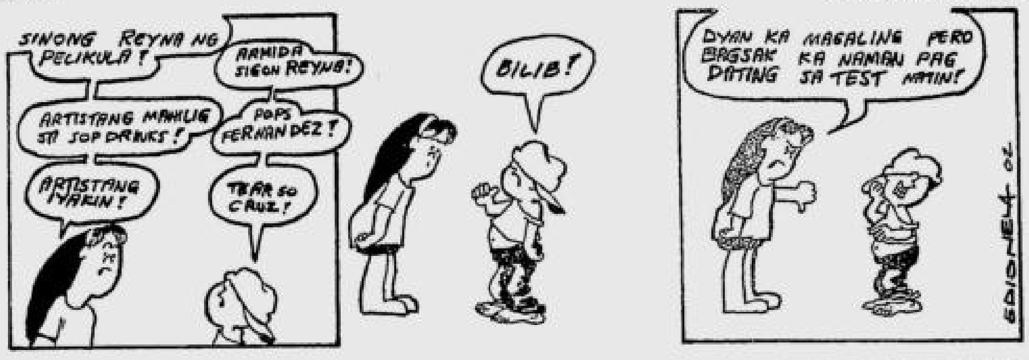
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TIGNAN NATIN KUNG BINASA N'YO 'YUNG JUDGES 13-16 NG BIBLIYA...
SINO ANG ASAWA NI DELILAH NA SUMIRA SA TEMPLO NG MGA PHILISTINES SA GAZA?
PAUL THOMAS?
'YAN ANG HIRAP SA INYO MA'AM E!
PAG ME NASISIRA E AKO ANG UNA N'YONG PINAGBIBINTANGAN!
MISS NOBATOS...
HINDI AKO NANINIWALANG MAGAGAWA NG ANAK KO 'YUNG IBINIBINTANG MO SA KANYA!
H'WAG MO NANG PROBLEMAHIN 'YUNG NASIRA N'UNG BATA.
TINAWAG KO NA 'YUNG KAPATID KONG CONTRACTOR.
ME KOMISYON TAYO DO'N.

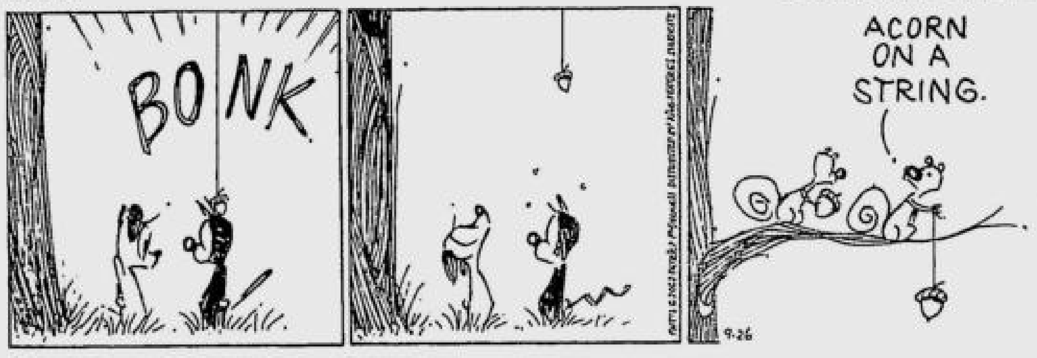
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SINONG REYNA NG PELIKULA!
ARMIDA SIGUION REYNA!
ARTISTANG MAHILIG SA SOP DRINKS!
POPS FERNANDEZ!
ARTISTANG IYAKIN!
TEAR SO CRUZ!
BILIB!
DYAN KA MAGALING PERO BAGSAK KA NAMAN PAG DATING SA TEST NATIN!
EDIONELA 02

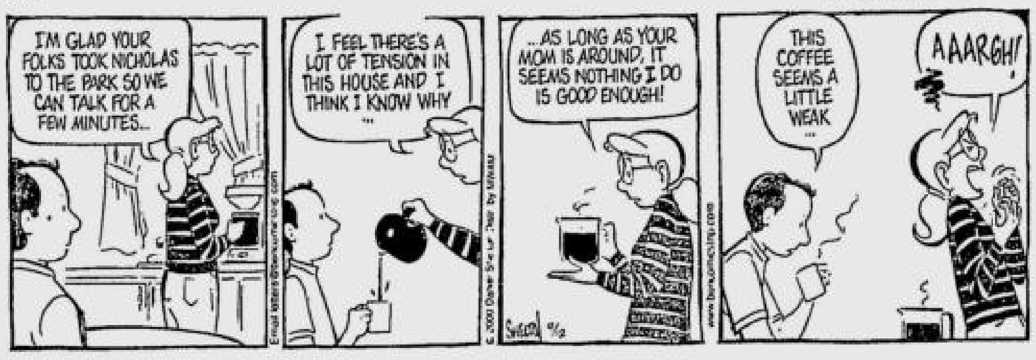
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BONK
ACORN ON A STRING.
9-26

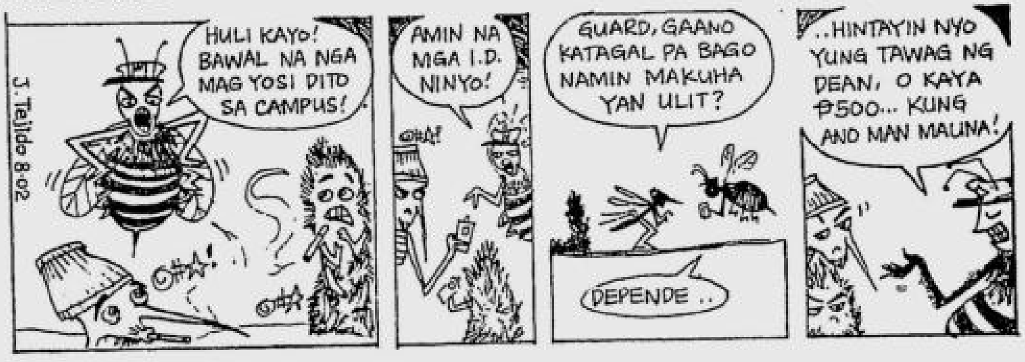
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M GLAD YOUR FOLKS TOOK NICHOLAS TO THE PARK SO WE CAN TALK FOR A FEW MINUTES...
I FEEL THERE'S A LOT OF TENSION IN THIS HOUSE AND I THINK I KNOW WHY ...
...AS LONG AS YOUR MOM IS AROUND, IT SEEMS NOTHING I DO IS GOOD ENOUGH!
THIS COFFEE SEEMS A LITTLE WEAK ...
AAARGH!

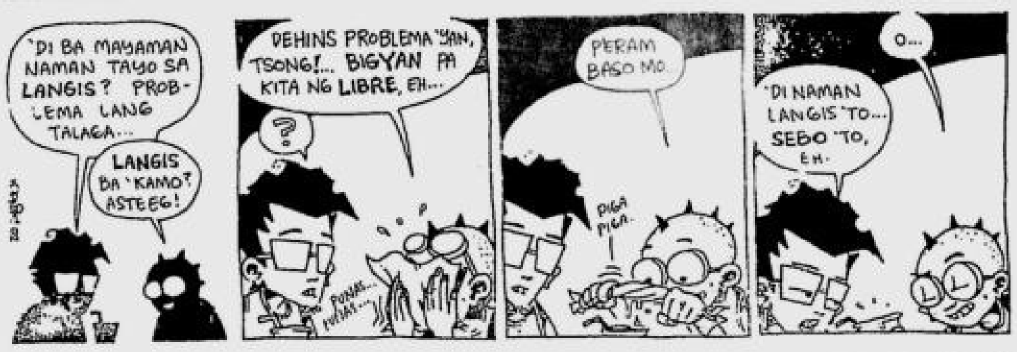
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


J. Tejido 8-02
HULI KAYO! BAWAL NA NGA MAG YOSI DITO SA CAMPUS!
AMIN NA MGA I.D. NINYO!
GUARD, GAANO KATAGAL PA BAGO NAMIN MAKUHA YAN ULIT?
DEPENDE ..
..HINTAYIN NYO YUNG TAWAG NG DEAN, O KAYA ₱500... KUNG AND MAN MAUNA!

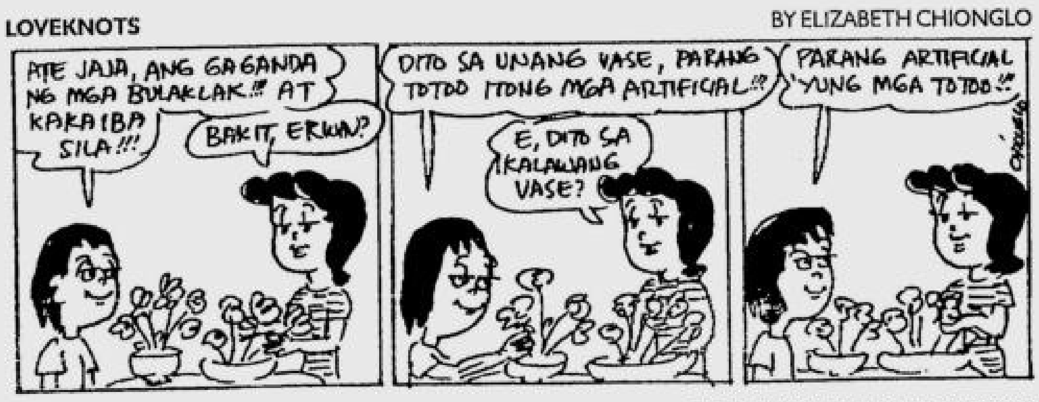
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


'DI BA MAYAMAN NAMAN TAYO SA LANGIS? PROBLEMA LANG TALAGA...
LANGIS BA 'KAMO? ASTEEG!
DEHINS PROBLEMA 'YAN, TSONG!... BIGYAN PA KITA NG LIBRE, EH...
?
PERAM BASO MO.
PIGA PIGA
O...
'DI NAMAN LANGIS 'TO... SEBO 'TO, EH.

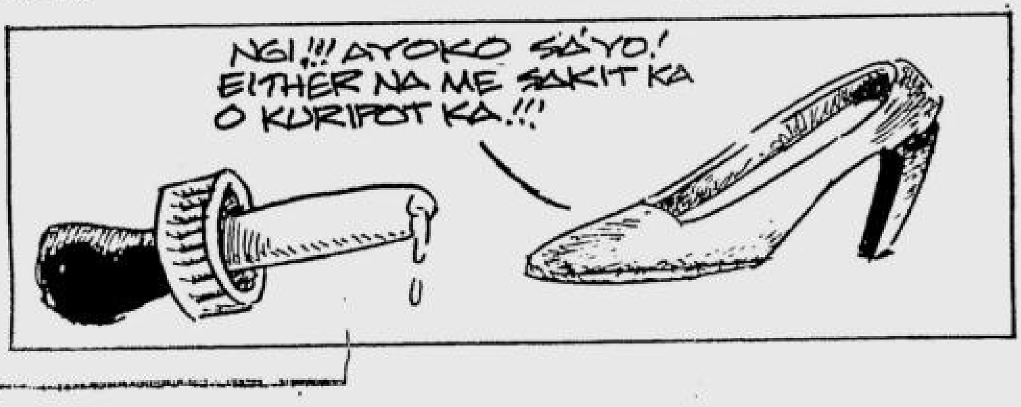
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ATE JAJA, ANG GAGANDA NG MGA BULAKLAK!!! AT KAKAIBA SILA!!!
BAKIT, ERWIN?
DITO SA UNANG VASE, PARANG TOTOO ITONG MGA ARTIFICIAL!!!
E, DITO SA KALAWANG VASE?
PARANG ARTIFICIAL 'YUNG MGA TOTOO!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI!!! AYOKO SA'YO! EITHER NA ME SAKIT KA O KURIPOT KA!!!

NOW SHOWING !

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

"A JARRING THRILLER
LOPEZ HOLDS THE SCREEN IN A STAR PERFORMANCE."
Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES
"...SUSPENSEFUL..."
Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
JENNIFER LOPEZ
ENOUGH
res.com

From fugitive to avenger!

J. Lo strikes back in 'ENOUGH'

Slim (JENNIFER LOPEZ) is working hard as a waitress when she is swept off her feet by Mitch (BILLY CAMPBELL), a handsome, rich businessman. Convinced she's found her Prince Charming, Slim marries Mitch in a lavish wedding, and settles with him in a fabulous dream home, where they are soon blessed with a lovely daughter, Gracie (TESSA ALLEN).

But the dream turns into a nightmare when Mitch becomes unfaithful, and starts abusing her physically and emotionally. He expects her to accept his beating and cheating. "I'm the man," Slim's husband declares. "I work and bring home the money, so I make the rules."

Slim has had enough. With her friend Ginny's (JULIETTE LEWIS) help, she escapes with Gracie. Pursued by an increasingly dangerous husband, she prepares to fight back with all her might.

AN ENTERTAINING, MUST-SEE THRILLER!

*Parents strongly cautioned. Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under 13.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS - 2
2 (SDDS) ENOUGH
3 (DTS) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
4 GOLD(DTS) ROAD TO PERDITION
5 GOLD(DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
6 GOLD(SDDS) SPY KIDS - 2
7 GOLD(DOLBY) ENOUGH
8 REVELATION
9 BOURN IDENTITY
10 REIGN OF FIRE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③
(Pasay) tel 833.3300 833.3374 TEL 551 63 87

1 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
2 SPY KIDS - 2
3 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 VAN WILDER
2 VOODOO
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) SPY KIDS - 2
5 TUKAAN

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1 SPIDER
2 TUKAAN
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
5 SPY KIDS - 2
6 ENOUGH
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13

SEPT 25 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
TIME 6:20, 8:55, 11:25
SEPT 26-27 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
TIME 6:20, 8:55
SEPT 28-29 SPY KIDS 2
TIME 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10 PM
SEPT 30 K-19 THE TUXEDO
TIME [illegible]

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BOURN IDENTITY
2 SIGNS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1
2 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1
2 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) SPY KIDS-2
4 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
5 REVELATION
6 VOODOO
7 (DTS) ENOUGH
8 (SDDS) REIGN OF FIRE
9 (DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
2 JOLOGS
3 SPY KIDS-2
4 (SDDS) REIGN OF FIRE
5 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
6 (DOLBY) ENOUGH
7 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
8 VOODOO
9 TUKAAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
5 (SDDS) SPY KIDS-2
6 (DTS) KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
7 (DOLBY) ENOUGH
8 SPY KIDS-2

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
3 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
4 TUKAAN
5 (SDDS) ENOUGH

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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS-2
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5 ENOUGH

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2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) ENOUGH
4 (SDDS) K19
5 (DTS) SPYKIDS 2
6 VOODOO
7 ROAD TO PERDITION

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2 K19

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4 SIMONE

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2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 (DOLBY) SIMONE
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3 BIGLANG LIKO

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2 BUKO PANDAN
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4 DESADE

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2 HIGH RISK
3 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
4 TUKAAN
5 ENOUGH

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2 ENOUGH
3 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

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1 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2 SPY KIDS-2
3 ENOUGH

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2 HIGH RISK
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2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 HIGH RISK

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2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 SIMONE
4 REIGN OF FIRE

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2 DIVINE SECRET
3 (DTS) ENOUGH
4 THE ROOKIE

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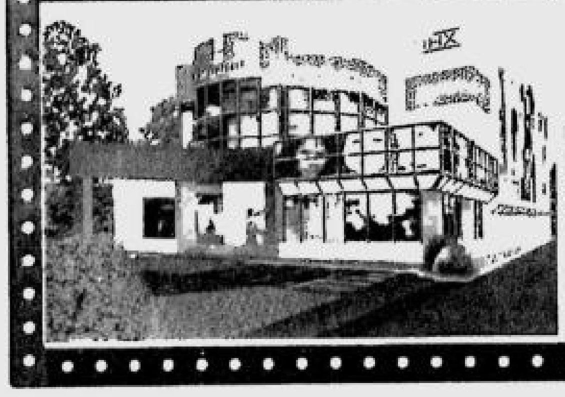

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3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ENOUGH
5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 CLOSED
7 KAPAG ANG PALAY
8 VOODOO

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1 K-19
2 VAN WILDER
3 ENOUGH
4 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 VOODOO
7 REIGN OF FIRE
8 REVELATION
9 ROAD TO PERDITION
10 THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
2 VAN WILDER
3 REIGN OF FIRE
4 K-19
5 ROAD TO PERDITION
6 SPY KIDS 2
7 SPY KIDS 2
8 ENOUGH
9 TUKAAN
10 REVELATION
11 JOLOGS
12 VOODOO

SM CITY MANILA
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1 K-19
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
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5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 SPY KIDS 2
7 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
8 VAN WILDER
9 SPY KIDS 2
10 VOODOO
11 SIMONE
12 KAPAG ANG PALAY...

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2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 K-19
4 ENOUGH
5 VAN WILDER
6 IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE
7 JOLOGS
8 VOODOO
9 ROAD TO PERDITION
10 SPY KIDS 2
11 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
12 REVELATION

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1 REVELATION
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
4 VAN WILDER
5 ENOUGH
6 ROAD TO PERDITION
7 SPY KIDS 2
8 K-19

SM SOUTHMALL
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1 VOODOO
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ENOUGH
5 VAN WILDER
6 TUKAAN
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8 K-19
9 REIGN OF FIRE
10 KAPAG ANG PALAY...

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1 SIGNS
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 DIVINE SECRETS OF...
5 ROAD TO PERDITION
6 HIGH RISK
7 AUSTIN POWERS
8 K-19

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1 TUKAAN
2 CLOSED
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 AUSTIN POWERS
5 DIVINE SECRETS OF...
6 REIGN OF FIRE
7 CLOSED
8 HIGH RISK

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3 REIGN OF FIRE
4 ENOUGH
5 DIVINE SECRETS OF...
6 SPY KIDS 2

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1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 SPY KIDS 2
3 K-19
4 ENOUGH

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3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ENOUGH

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6 REIGN OF FIRE

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11:30 FS/12:00 MF/2:45/5:30/8:15/
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4 REIGN OF FIRE
5 SPY KIDS2
6 ENOUGH
7 BOURNE IDENTITY
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9 SIMONE
10 ROAD TO PERDITION

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5 SPY KIDS 2
6 ENOUGH
7 VAN WILDER

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1 VOODOO
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 VAN WILDER
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 ENOUGH
6 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
7 ROAD TO PERDITION
8 SIMONE

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

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3 VAN WILDER
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 ENOUGH
6 ROAD TO PERDITION
7 VOODOO
8 REVELATION

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4 ENOUGH
5 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
6 REVELATION

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4 HIGH RISK
5 AUSTIN POWER 3
6 BAKAT

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3 HIGH RISK
4 DIVINE SECRETS...
5 AUTIN POWER 3
6 TUKAAN

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4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
5 ENOUGH
6 ENOUGH

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ROAD TO PERDITION

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Primeline artists take the challenge

EVERY artist signed up under legendary star builder Ronnie and Ida Henares' Primeline, Inc., are always assured of two things: They are the brightest and the busiest.

Last month, Song Goddess Lani Misalucha was feted with an all-out birthday bash on GMA 7's "SOP," the top-rating Sunday variety show she co-hosts.

Lani also wrapped up a successful concert tour of the United States, with performances at Pasadeña Civic Auditorium in Los Angeles, Masonic Auditorium in San Francisco and Lisner Auditorium in Washington D.C.

Dubbed "Flight of the Nightingale," the US shows guested Jed Maddela (in L.A. and Washington) and heartthrob Piolo Pascual (in San Francisco).

Lani rounded up her US performances with a back-to-back show with concert king Martin Nievera at the Rosemont Theater in Chicago.

Karylle, meanwhile, is now acknowledged as the best new artist of the year after having received the distinction from credible award-giving bodies in music. She is seen every Sunday on "SOP."

Karylle also bagged the best new artist plum from the Aliw Awards. She will perform for the awards night and anniversary of San Miguel Corporation on Sept. 27 and will promote her album under Universal Records via a mall show at SM Southmall on Sept. 29.

Karylle has recorded a duet with Jed Maddela, "Only Selfless Love," for the Christian album "Power of Your Love" under Universal Records.

Jed Maddela, former lead singer of Dye Vest, is out on his own—and making it.

Jed will perform at Rockstar in Libis on Sept. 30 with Gail Blanco, Aliya Parcs and the Prime Council Band.

Aliya Parcs devotes her Mondays to performances at Rockstar, Tuesdays at Strumm's Makati where she sings with Radha and Jed Maddela.

Newcomer Gail Blanco performs with Aliya, Jed and Radha at Rockstar on Sept. 30.

Former Kulay member Radha sings soul and R&B tunes at Strumm's Makati.

Another busy Primeline talents is Nancy Castiglione, who is a maintstay of the afternoon drama "Kahit Kailan'.' Sundays, 2:30 p.m. on GMA 7.

Chico and Delamar, still the hottest team on morning radio, are heard over Monster Radio RX 93.1 FM.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
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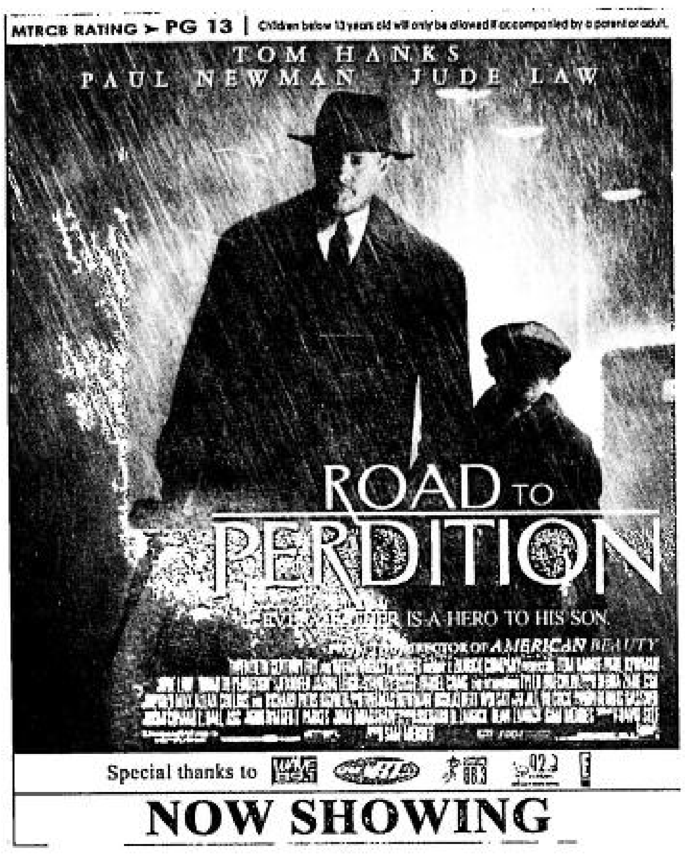
ROAD TO PERDITION P13 11:50,2:20,4:50, 7:20,9:50	SIMONE P13 1:10,3:15,5:20, 7:25,9:30	K-9: THE WIDOWMAKER P13 11:20,2:00,4:40, 7:25,10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.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--- Elvis Mitchell, New York Times Film Critic
WINNER at the CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
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Cannes Prix du Technique for Editing, Cinematography & Prod. Design
Directed by Wong Kar Wai
Starring Maggie Cheung & Tony Leung
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P 13
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SUGAT / FERDINANDO
ODEON	K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
ODEON-2	JASON X / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	STARWARS / BIG FAT LIAR
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR-2	TUKAAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SPY KIDS - 2
B	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ENOUGH
CINEMA-2	CINE EUROPA 5
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
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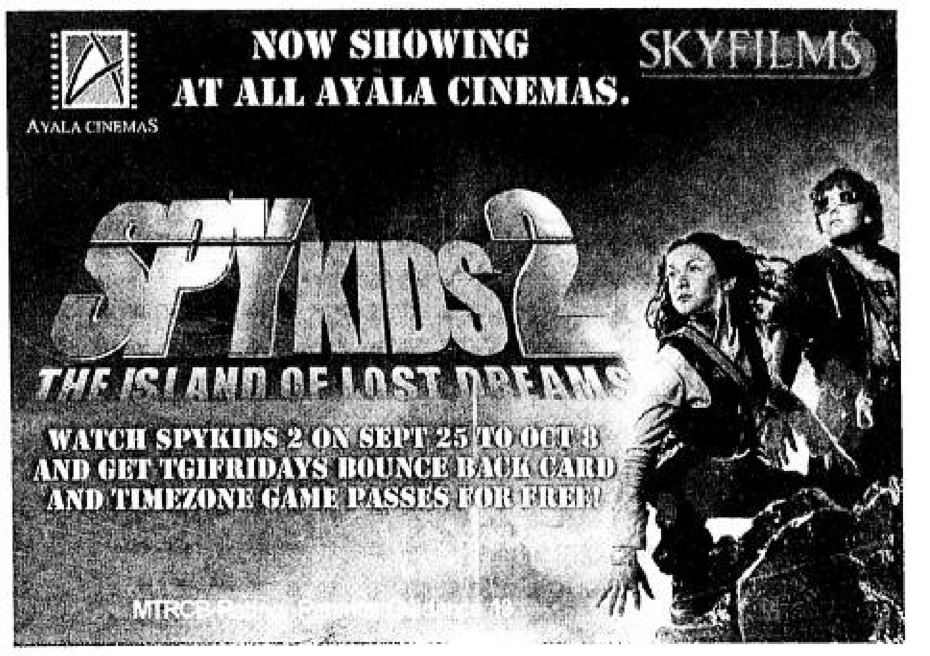
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-6	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-8	VOODOO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	K19 WIDOWMAKER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-12	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-14	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-15	REVELATION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	SIMONE
CINEMA 2	ORANGE COUNTY (WED) SPIRIT (SAT)
CINEMA 3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA 4	BOURNE IDENTITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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1 ENOUGH	1 SPY KIDS 2	1 THE 4TH ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL	1 ROAD TO PERDITION 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	1 ENOUGH
2 K-19: THE WIDOWMAKER	2 ROAD TO PERDITION	2 IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	2 K-19:THE WIDOWMAKER 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30	2 K-19:THE WIDOWMAKER
3 SPY KIDS 2	3 K19:THE WIDOWMAKER 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30	3 GARY VALENCIANO HITS ONSTAGE SEPT , 27 & 28 9 PM	3 SIMONE 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ROAD TO PERDITION	4 REIGN OF FIRE		4 ROAD TO PERDITION 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 ROAD TO PERDITION
	5 THE BOURNE IDENTITY		5 SPY KIDS 2 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	5 SPY KIDS 2
	6 ENOUGH			
	7 VAN WILDER			

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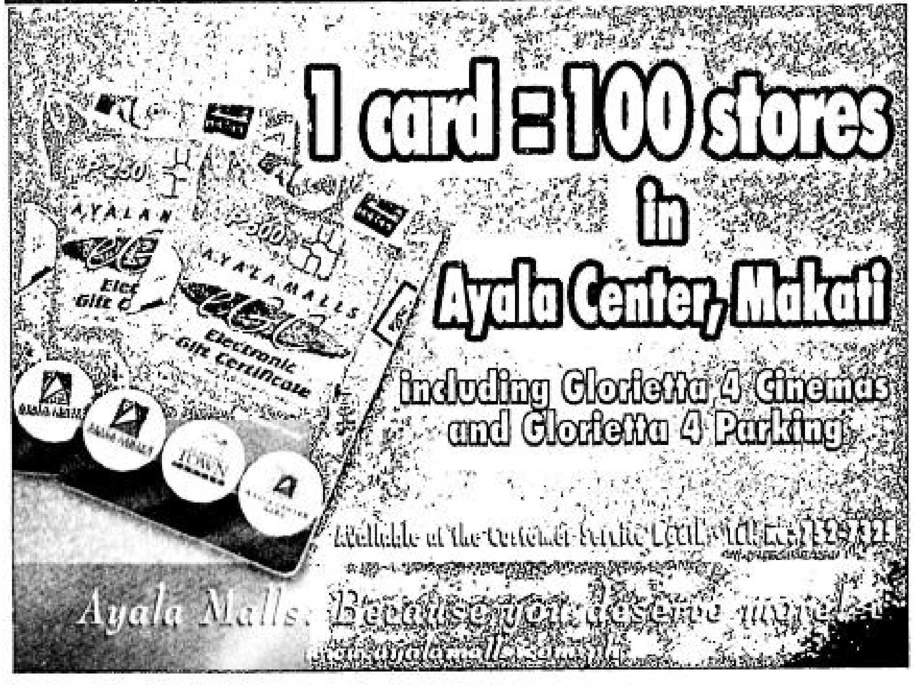
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'SIMONE'

When reproduction and reality overlap

By Luis Joaquin M. Katigbak
Contributor

REVIEW

WHAT is real?

Philosophers and quantum physicists alike have pondered this question, and now, with the new film "Simone," writer/director Andrew Niccol adds his observations to the eternal debate.

Not that this is Niccol's first exploration of themes of authenticity and perception. These themes are constant in his work, as he wrote "The Truman Show" and wrote and directed "Gattaca," both vivid portrayals of the processes behind two distinct and carefully crafted illusions.

You won't find any profound answers or theories here, however. What you will find is a good time, an enjoyable but not empty-headed cinematic diversion. This is Niccol's lightest film, and it touches on significant issues without getting immersed in—much less drowned by—them.

"Simone" is the story of Victor Taransky (Al Pacino), washed-up Hollywood film director, who can't make a hit movie and can't even keep his stars on the set. At the beginning, we are treated to a confrontation between Taransky and self-centered star Nicola Anders (Winona Ryder, in a great comic turn). She abandons the picture they are making, citing "creative differences" to the press.

"The difference is, you're not creative!" Taransky yells at her, as her limo speeds off the lot.

With his star's departure also depart any chances Taransky has of finishing the film the way he envisioned it. He laments the state of filmmaking in an amusing exchange with Elaine Christian (the excellent Catherine Keener), the head of Amalgamated Films, who also happens to be his ex-wife and the mother of his child, the level-headed Lainey (Evan Rachel Wood).

Hard disk

It is in this dialogue that we also see a glimpse of Taransky's alarming, control-freaky side. Later, on the phone with an agent, Taransky learns that no one will work with him, not even unknown actresses. Better no film credits than a Taransky credit, the agent informs him.

Salvation for Taransky arrives in the form of a hard disk. A recently-deceased mad computer genius has bequeathed his life's work to his favorite director: a perfectly convincing simulation of a human being, a virtual actress, or "synthespian."

The programmer called her "Simulation One." Taransky cleverly shortens the program's name to Simone.

It is here that the film really takes off. Taransky's control-freakiness is unleashed, and he fine-tunes every detail of his actress, from her acting influences (mixing elements of Audrey Hepburn, Greta Garbo and Meryl Streep) to her appearance. "You're so beautiful," he croons to her in one scene. "You're too beautiful. We're gonna fix that." And with a keystroke, he adds a tiny mole to her left cheek.

More, more

He casts her in his film, and she is an instant, sensational smash. Audiences rave about her performance, they fall in love with her, and they want more, more. And at first, Taransky is only too happy to oblige.

A lot of the film's fun comes from the increasingly elaborate ways in which Simone becomes "real," through press releases, doctored TV appearances, stand-ins, and a second and third film. The lack of direct contact with people only feeds the public's curiosity and adulation.

As Simone's star continues to rise, her fame spreads globally, to frenzied, ridiculous heights. Pacino, as the puppet master behind all the hype, is at first exhilarated, then annoyed, and then, as events spiral beyond control and he begins to wonder exactly who is pulling the strings.

Media-muddled

Pacino's performance is so—you'll excuse the term—real, that his manipulation of Simone becomes slightly disturbing. At first it conjures issues of most men's insecure need to control women, uncomfortable echoes of Pygmalion.

But then Niccol and Pacino shift the focus, and it becomes clear that while Taransky's motivation might ultimately be insecurity, what he is trying to control is not the opposite sex or a representative thereof, but his own media-muddled fate.

Niccol knows what he's doing here. Appropriately enough, he gives the movie a feel that is almost cartoony. The pacing is brisk, the banter snappy. Some things that would be subtly stated in a serious movie are spelled out ("If only you would compromise!" Elaine says to Taransky in one scene). Even the names of Taransky's films ("Sunrise, Sunset" and "Eternity Forever"), as well as the name of the studio itself (Amalgamated Films), have a Looney Tunes feel to them.

However, Niccol's hand is not always so deft. Clever lines are repeated, just in case we didn't get them the first time. In the end, since the concept is all about the messy overlap of reality and simulation, it resists the neat conclusions that Niccol seems to draw. "Fake is okay, as long as you don't lie about it," one of the characters says.

Not so implausible

What makes "Simone" interesting is the fact that the high concept is not so implausible, given the times we live in. These days, a group of cartoon characters—the Gorillaz—can have a critically-acclaimed hit record, and the phenomenon of computer-generated beings acting opposite flesh-and-blood thespians is commonplace, if not always welcome (witness the almost-universal disdain for Jar Jar Binks).

And then there's Dr. Aki Ross, the virtual star of the fairly recent movie "Final Fantasy," who is real enough to be the bikini-clad pin-up on a friend's office wall.

The lukewarm reception of "Final Fantasy" indicates that we may never get to the point where CGI actors take the place of actual humans. But then again, some critics thought that sound in moving pictures would never work, either.

As Taransky says, "If a performance is genuine, it doesn't matter if the actor's real or not."

If a computer can ever generate performances as effective and entertaining as the ones delivered here by Pacino, Keener, Ryder, the reliably annoying Jay Mohr, and Wood, then maybe synthespians might be something to look forward to.

SOUTH BORDER AT HARD ROCK
After performing to jam-packed crowd last week, South Border returns to Hard Rock Café with a show at 10 tonight. The group is composed of keyboardist Jay Durias, vocalist Luke Mejares, drummer Paul Benitez, saxophonist Rick Junasa, bassist Tata Balane and guitarist Butch Victoriano. They are expected to delight the audience anew as they dish out their crowd-pleasing repertoire of cover versions and their own hits, including "Love of My Life," "Kahit Kailan" and "Sa 'Yo." The show is supported by Cast and Crew, with Mossimo and Wave 89.1. For details and ticket information, call 893-4661 to 64 or Cast and Crew at 718-1032.

Ivy 'In Full Circle'

SHOWS

IN CELEBRATION of her 21st year in the music business, Ivy Violan holds a concert, "In Full Circle," Sept. 30, 9 p.m. at Hard Rock Cafe.

With a party concept, Ivy will bring back the pulsating eras in music as she performs an upbeat repertoire with new arrangements.

Ivy goes down memory lane as she sings disco, Latin and rock n' roll numbers from the '70s, '80s and '90s.

In a night of dance medleys, Ivy will dish out "Let's Get Loud" and "Genie In a Bottle"; a '70s medley of tunes like "All Night Long" and "Celebration"; a Sampaguita rock medley; "Footloose,"

"More Today Than Yesterday," "Got To Get You Into My Life," "What's Love Got To Do With It"; Mick Jagger's feet-stomping numbers like "Satisfaction" and "Honky Tonk Woman."

At her status now, Ivy says she has come full circle in her career, hence the title of her concert.

VIOLAN. Marks her 21st year in the music business.

Ivy has invited her colleagues in the business to jam with her onstage during the concert.

Musical director is Homer Flores.

Tickets are at P600, inclusive of two standard drinks.

For inquiries, call 724-1762.

'Sweet Giggles'

COMEDIAN John Lapuz is slated to perform at Giggles Comedy Bar, 9 p.m. on Sept. 30 (Monday).

In the show "Sweet Giggles," John is expected to bring the audience rolling into laughter with his incomparable gift of gab. Joining John in the one-night-only show are resident Giggles talents and the Road Trip band.

Giggles Comedy Bar is beside the Sta. Lucia Grand Mall along Felix Avenue.

For details and reservation, call 682-2280 to 81.

LAPUZ

Dragons on the rampage

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"Reign of Fire" initially strikes us as an ungainly combination of "Jurassic Park" and "Mad Max." It's set in the not so distant future, a tragic time when the world is in ruins, as a result of the onslaught of hundreds of monstrous dragons that have been roused from a hungry slumber deep in the bowels of our planet.

Civilization is in ruins because the world's leaders have exploded atomic and uranium bombs in an attempt to exterminate the flying, fire-breathing dragons.

Only a few people have survived the nuclear holocaust, and they have their hands full just staying alive as the dragons hunt for more humans to eat.

The film focuses on a small colony of survivors in England, led by **Christian Bale**. He tries to protect his people as best he can, but he's clearly no match for the all-powerful dragons.

It's only when Bale meets **Matthew McConaughey's** character that his understanding of the continuing battle against the marauding dragons changes in a decisive way. McConaughey's forces are equipped with modern weapons, tanks and a helicopter. Thus, they not only survive, but have also inflicted injury on some of the marauding dragons.

Only then does Bale realize that the dragons can in fact be vanquished if his people fight together with McConaughey's forces. For this to happen, however, Bale has to think like the more decisive leader-and that takes a lot of doing.

Eventually, however, they do learn to work together, and the dragons' days are numbered.—especially when the new partners are able to figure out the dragons' weak point. After this discovery, they realize that they don't have to kill all of the dragons, but can achieve victory by focusing on one central point.

As the film progresses, it becomes more interesting than its clangorous start. Key to this improvement is the fact that Bale and McConaughey are good actors who have decided to do their best with the characters assigned to them, despite their initial "Mad Max" stereotyping.

Another major plus point in the digital animation of the dragons, which is accomplished with great style and believability.

Also interesting is the way that McConaughey has figured out to defeat the dragons, with the use of "human dive-bombers" who hurtle across the sky with kamikaze courage.

Yes, "Reign of Fire" doesn't have many substantial things to say, but its actors and production people have infused it with enough intensity and excitement to make it an involving viewing experience.

Fun phonecard

PLDT invades arcades and recreation centers to launch a first with its new SM Storyland Foncard Plus, which can be used to pay for non-phone transactions in establishments like SM Storyland, aside from voice calls. The fun was launched last Sept. 21 at SM Storyland Southmall.

The fun phonecard is part of PLDT's strategic thrust to develop exciting multi-media and interactive products. In the coming years, PLDT will become more active in the field of entertainment, I.T., and interactive applications. Its new products and services will combine the strength of its landline, wireless, satellite and Internet resources with media and entertainment.

L.A. Lopez returns to acting

AFTER staging a phenomenal come back as a recording artist last year via his gold record album, "Yakap," former child star turned teen idol, L.A. Lopez, also stages a big return to TV, the medium that first garnered him attention years ago.

After eight years of absence from the boob tube, L.A. topbills tonight's episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya," 9 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

Under the helm of director Eric Salud (whom L.A. has worked with years ago), the episode also stars Mystica, Miguel Vera and Sylvia Sanchez.

L.A. plays a teenager who dreams of becoming an entertainer in Japan after graduating from high school. The episode is written by Ricky Lee.

LOPEZ. Stars in tonight's episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

The best birthday gift I can give myself

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

ALLOW me to veer away from the usual show bizzy stuff and let you in on my birthday party held at the ultra hip and cool Buddha Bar at Glorietta 2.

I'm just overwhelmed by the support of old and new-found friends and of course my family who all made time for me last Friday. More than just a birthday bash, it was a rekindling of friendship vows, affirmation of new ties and, more importantly, a celebration of my mom's second lease on life after her kidney operation.

As I was looking at my mom across the crowded bar, it suddenly hit me that all the stars who came to my party somehow trust me out of their respect for my mom. It feels good reaping the abundant harvest of love and friendship whose seeds my mom planted in the biz. And as one of her favorite frames at home says, "Bloom where you are planted!"

I may not still be in full bloom but with my mom's constant "watering and pruning," I'm well on my way.

My good friend **Jonn Santillan** (who ought to win hands down as future congressman of Batangas' 3rd district) told me that it was a perfect time for merry-making because it happened to be the moon festival and it's supposed to be a lucky day for affairs of the heart. Well I'm happily unattached now and even if I may never find true love that lasts (had enough lust for a lifetime), I have enough true friends to see me through every September of my colorful crazy life.

And those friends, show biz and non-show biz, came in full force to my party. I can't help but do a roll call for all the many roles they play in my half la vida loca, half la vie en rose. Just knowing each and every one of them is the best birthday gift I can ever give myself.

If I had three birthday wishes I would wish for three copies of each of my friends and family members. Your presence at my party made me overlook the onslaught of mid-life crisis.

What mid-life? I'd like to think that it will always be a full life for me because of all of my friends and family members.

Here goes my birthday thank-you list:

Jacob Fernandez and Buddha Bar staff, for throwing a lavish party for me, undeserving as I may be. I felt like a debutante all over again.

Jessica Rodriguez, for always being the first one and sometimes the only one to be there for me.

Korina Sanchez, for letting her soft side show and taking me in like a long-lost friend.

Cito Beltran, for looking after me and always talking some sense into me.

Tin-Tin Bersola, for sharing girly joys and woes wholeheartedly.

Julius Babao, for making my job (as "Magandang Umaga Bayan's" movie reviewer) seem not like work with all his tips and help.

Ogie Alcasid, for making our newfound friendship blossom.

Pia Guanio, for the instant connection.

Cher Calvin, for the constant bonding in the make-up room no matter if we're both in a rush.

Roger Calvin, Cher's cool dad, for making me feel instantly at home.

Bobby Yan, for contaminating me with his incredible zest for life.

Pinky Amador, for bringing out the "French woman" in me.

Monsour del Rosario, for being my shield.

Patricia Javier, for showing me what it's like to be a real beauty inside-out.

Karen Davila, for swapping love and work advice unselfishly.

Riki Kwek, for knowing how to have fun as much as I do.

Marvin Agustin, for keeping our bond rock-solid no matter how long it's been.

Medwin Marfil of True Faith, for being my kindred spirit.

I wish I had enough space to mention all my other friends who are out of the limelight but I know they understand and would prefer to keep a low profile. That's what I love about my non-show biz friends. They keep me grounded and prevent me from losing myself in the biz. I am indebted to each of you. What I owe the cell phone company barely comes close to what I owe you all. Thanks to text messaging for keeping the lines and our passion for friendship burning.)

I save the best for last. Thanks to my mom, my kids **Bianch** and **Ice**, my bro **Ricky**, my sis **Clara**, **TaLets** and **Charlie**, **Tad**, **Ely**, **Butch**, **Pilar**, **Tita Ansing**, **Nancy**, **Camille**, **Carl**, **Cindy**, **Tricia**, **Karla**, **Ten**, **Emil**, **Egan**, **Tanya**, **Terese**, **Kara**, **Dondi** and **Ariana**, **Nikko**, **Gina**, **Monica**, **Misha**, **Marti**—for never disowning me even if that would be the better option sometimes.

I'll never grow old. I'll just keep growing up. Thanks for showing the way.

For feedback, e-mail friends _at_dsquare@yahoo.com

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Stable credit rating of RP stays

By Clarissa S. Batino

FITCH Ratings has assured Philippine economic leaders that it was not planning to downgrade the country's credit rating nor withdraw the stable outlook it had restored during the early days of the Macapagal administration from a negative outlook it handed down during the last days of the Estrada regime.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, in a teleconference with reporters from New York, said that Fitch, one of the influential foreign credit rating firms, gave the assurance during their meeting in London the other day.

"The meeting with Fitch went extremely well. There was no mention of a downgrade at all," the finance secretary said.

He admitted that the ratings firm still raised questions on the deficit and the declining revenue collection.

Camacho said he and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura assured Fitch Ratings that the government was seriously implementing reforms specially in the Bureau of Internal Revenue to reverse the decline in collection.

Camacho, Buenaventura, and Investor Relations director Cora Guidote are now in New York for the third-leg of the Philippines roadshow that started in Singapore.

"We discussed the VAT relief system, the improved collection in August. There was nothing dramatic in the meeting," said the finance secretary.

Intensive audit of VAT taxpayers has pushed the collection of the value-added tax by more than 10 percent and this has helped improve the August collection of the BIR, although it was still P5 billion lower than the target.

"There is no fear or concern on their faces," said Camacho when asked whether Fitch was convinced that the government deficit was manageable.

In a statement in August, Fitch Ratings had estimated that the deficit this year would hit P155 billion, but stressed that concerns that the Philippine economy had similarities with Brazil were unwarranted.

The ratings firm, touted to be the more tolerant of Philippine setbacks compared to its peers, cited the 2004 presidential elections as a significant factor that could prevent the government from pursuing an earnest fiscal consolidation as political decisions usually override the need to keep a lid on spending.

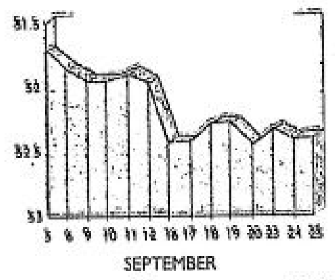
Fitch was the last to downgrade the country's outlook to negative during the last few days of the Estrada administration and the first to reverse the outlook to stable two months after the Macapagal administration took over.

Standard & Poor and Moody's

STABLE/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.40= $

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 25, 2002

¥ 122.39= $

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 25, 2002

GOLD: $325.90-326.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 25, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks up slightly

SHARES eked out slight gains yesterday, mainly on technical buying following five straight days of decline due to weakness in global markets and concerns of a Middle East crisis.

However, traders said the marginal gains as well as the light turnover showed that the market's rebound may be short-lived.

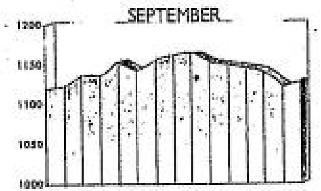
Food and beverage firm San Miguel's "B" shares led gainers, climbing P2.50 to P58 following the firm's announcement of an 18-percent year-on-year increase in its eight-month net sales.

"The market was due for a technical rally, the small gain is a classic sign of that. But declines are expected to come because of the weakness in global markets, it's not just us," said Allan Araullo, vice president of Regina Capital Development Corp.

The Philippine stock index advanced 4.53 points or 0.4 percent to end at 1,126.60 points. The index was mostly in the positive territory during the session but traded within a tight range of less than six points.

Reuters

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

RP seen far from Latin America-style crisis

A MOUNTING budget deficit is extremely worrying but the Philippines is far from a Latin America-style meltdown, analysts say.

Markets, worried about a tax collection nightmare and a potential for unbridled spending ahead of 2004 presidential elections, have widened spreads on Philippine debt in recent months.

Analysts warn further punishment is likely if there is no fiscal improvement by the end of the year.

"The type of grace or latitude that the market is giving is very limited by the fact that we've already seen a grind out (of spreads). So, it's not like they are in the comfort zone," said Dilip Shahani, a credit analyst at HSBC Corp Ltd in Hong Kong.

"The market is not waiting. They are already slowly pricing in (risk). But a complete collapse, a meltdown ... that is still probably very far away."

The government's budget deficit for the first eight months of the year surged to P144 billion, surpassing the government's full-year target of P130 billion due to woeful undercollection of taxes.

Doubts on deficit

The government has set a new 2002 deficit target of 3.3-4 percent of GDP—up to about P155 billion—but there is widespread doubt that this is realistic. The market consensus is for an annual fiscal deficit of around P170-P190 billion.

"Once you get beyond 175 and closer to the 200 billion mark, then it starts to look like the government has lost control," said Graham Parry, an economist at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo.

The spread between the Philippines' benchmark sovereign 2010 bond and US 10-year government bonds topped 460 basis points this week, compared to around 400 basis points three months ago.

Jo Ann Eala, a fund manger at BPI Asset Management and Trust Group, said tax reform was needed very soon.

"Our concern is that 2003 is just one year before elections,

RP/ B3

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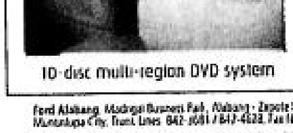
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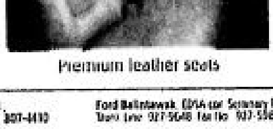
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Not so fast in review

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

YOU have to give it to Piatco! Its slip is showing in the controversial contract for the Naia Terminal 3. That's why the Piatco PR machinery is working overtime.

A group, according to the grapevine, which may even include Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "the Whiz" Camacho, is scheduled to try the Naia Terminal 3.

The Whiz is a member of the Young Presidents Organization, or the YPO, which is made up of corporate CEOs and presidents who are still in their 40s.

Piatco is inviting the YPO to try out the new terminal this Saturday. Its members simply pretend to check in for a flight. Cebu Pacific even lends them a jumbo jet.

They fly for 20 minutes or so, and then they come back to earth, hopefully, as much better men, with a firm grasp of airports. Something silly like that!

I know a little about such a gimmick. This, in pharmaceutical lingo, is known as a "sample." It is a good way to influence doctors to order us to use pills like Viagra.

* * *

AS we all know, anyway, the Piatco contract is under scrutiny by the Senate blue ribbon committee, with Sen. Joker Arroyo in the lead role.

But even before the blue ribbon committee can conclude its investigation, this cute administration announced it would go for a RE-negotiation of the Piatco contract.

That was Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, talking as head of the committee which was created by this cute administration to review the Piatco contract.

But Nani had a partner in a law firm who once served as counsel to somebody who filed a case against Piatco. Nani's conscience could not bear it. I'm serious.

Without much ado, therefore, he then resigned as head of the "review" committee, but not before he announced that he favored a "renegotiation."

* * *

THAT "review" committee is now the "renegotiation" committee. It is headed by Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, who also happens to be the head of Neda.

In turn, under the law, Neda has the last say on BOT contracts like Piatco's. The contract got the Neda approval many years ago during the time of Kuya Eddie.

Piatco got the project from the so-called Emerging Dragons, by promising the government a bigger share of the loot, *este*, income from the terminal.

At that time, Canlas was the Neda deputy head. We get no indication whatsoever that Canlas is resigning as head of the review-turned-renegotiation committee.

What do we have here? Are you telling me that the head of Neda, which approved the Piatco contract, now passes judgment on the merits of the same contract? Is that it?

* * *

NOT so fast, Caiphas, on that Canlas review, because much earlier than his review-turned-renegotiation committee was another review.

That was the review done by Gloria Tan Climaco, who hit the headlines lately because she concluded that the Piatco contract was onerous.

Basically, Gloria found out that the contract underwent substantial, er, wonderful changes during the time of the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

Those changes, precisely, were the big issues. And that's why this cute administration decided to go for the Gloria review.

But today we have the Canlas review committee to review the Gloria review. Who will review the Canlas committee review, do you know? Sorry, I also don't.

* * *

ONE scenario going around business is, the review-turned-renegotiation committee will likely make a couple of high profile changes in the contract.

The leading candidate is the $20 terminal fee, which is stated in the Piatco contract, or P1,100 per person at the current exchange rate, as against the present P550.

Surely the public will kill to change that in the contract. Piatco claims the fee will be used for maintenance. Maybe Piatco put toilets made of gold in the terminal.

But still the bigger racket, este, issue in the contract is the "formula" for what Piatco is allowed to charge the public, airlines, and concessionaires—in short, its income.

The amount, based on the formula, should cover all the loans, plus interest, and also devaluation of the peso, plus profit margin. Meaning, Piatco takes no risk at all.

* * *

BASED on computations in the Gloria review, the fantastic formula can yield for Piatco something like $1.5 billion in 10 years. The government gets about $150 million.

Look at that! The beautiful BOT contract gives Piatco an income which is 10 times the money it gives to the government. Again—that's 10 times!

Yet it was precisely the BIG share of the government, under the Piatco proposal, which prompted the administration of Kuya Eddie to give the project to Piatco.

By its nature, an airport is a monopoly, in the mold of public utilities like Meralco or PLDT or MWSS, now the Maynilad and Manila Water. You have no other choice.

The government regulates the charges by such monopolies. That's always the rule. Piatco is the exemption. Under the contract, it wrote its own, ahh, "formula."

* * *

SO under the remarkable formula, Piatco can do no wrong, even if it mismanages the whole thing. The contract allows it to make all the money for loan payment and profit.

It's all automatic. And on top of the surefire formula, the contract says that if Piatco defaults on any of its loan, the government must take over the terminal.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the bone of contention even among senators. Does the contract give Piatco a sovereign guarantee on its loans or not?

It's only a "takeover," right? Piatco, with the backing of certain senators, plus a lot of media, claims it's not a guarantee. I think it's all just nice wordings.

For if the government takes over the terminal, as Piatco goes belly up, it then pays for all the obligations. This provision, in fact, was the clincher for Piatco to get loans.

For what can be a better collateral for the banks than a BOT contract which obligates the government to save the proponent's big a..?

If that is not a guarantee, which Piatco claims it is not, I dare the Canlas review-turned-renegotiation committee to delete it from the contract.

And then let's hear it from Piatco's creditors. Achtung!

PSE suspends trading of Filsyn

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday suspended indefinitely the trading of shares of holding firm Filsyn Corp. after the Securities and Exchange Commission revoked the latter's corporate registration due to alleged violation of the securities law.

The PSE suspended Filsyn at 12:20 p.m. or about an hour after it received notice from the SEC that it had revoked the company's registration of securities and permit to sell securities to the public.

Based on its records, the SEC said it stripped Filsyn's registration due to violation of reportorial requirements prescribed by Securities Regulation Code Rule 17 despite notice and hearing.

The SEC stressed, however, that its suspension order shall not exempt the company from further reporting obligations under the SRC and its implementing rules and regulations. These requirements cover companies with total assets of at least P50 million and have at least 200 stockholders each holding at least 100 shares.

AMLC-ADB CONTRACT SIGNING

The Asian Development Bank is providing technical and financial assistance to the government's anti-money laundering efforts.Under the agreement, ADB will provide support for the effective monitoring of suspicious transactions and specialized training for key government institutions involved in the anti-money laundering operations. Present at the contract signing were (seated from right) Mike Horner, Control Risk Philippines Inc.; Executive Director Vicente S. Aquino of the Anti-Money Laundering Council; and Fran Baniqued of Agile. Standing (from right) are: Graeme Campbell of Control Risks Philippines, lawyer Criselda Perez of the AMLC and Yinguo Huang of ADB.

Globe sees P1-B net profit in 3rd quarter

By Abigail L. Ho

AYALA-OWNED Globe Telecom Inc. sees about P1 billion in net income for the third quarter even with a P2.2-billion one-time write-off of subsidiary Isla Communications Co. Inc.'s wireless network.

"The reversal of certain accounting provisions as well as improved operating results from July to September would reduce the impact of the write-off on Globe's bottom line to only about P200 million, the company said in a statement yesterday.

Despite this one-time charge to the company, the integration of Globe and Islacom's networks will save the company P600 million a year and reduce its capital expenditures by P1.5 billion.

"The operational integration of the wireless networks will increase our focus, streamline operations and result in a more efficient utilization of the network to the benefit of the shareholders," Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said.

The company also said that this integration would further enhance shareholder value, improve company agility and retain its strong position in the wireless market.

As of the first half of the year, Globe reported a subscriber base of 5.4 million, representing 44 percent of the local cellular market.

Joanne Miguel, analyst at 2TradeAsia.com, said the P1-billion revenue projection for the quarter was "feasible and even quite conservative."

She said Globe had already posted P1.7 billion in net income during the second quarter so the P1-billion target was not hard to achieve.

"I think Globe can even hit P1.4 billion. Revenues usually spike during the second quarter so income for the third quarter is expected to be lower than P1.7 billion," she said.

Globe and Islacom's network integration will allow the migration of Islacom's existing Touch Mobile subscribers to the ``Improved Touch Mobile" service that has a wider coverage and more service offerings.

It will also enable Globe to use Islacom's 10 megahertz of digital frequency on top of Globe's 20 MHz.

PSE taps PLDT unit for online disclosure project

LOCAL certification authority mySecureSign Inc., subsidiary of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s Internet arm ePLDT, has signed an agreement to streamline the Philippine Stock Exchange's online disclosure system (OdiSy).

In a statement issued yesterday, mSSI said it provided the PSE with a managed public key infrastructure (PKI) that allowed users to communicate and transact online without fear of security breaches.

PSE chief technology officer Ed Ocampo said the local bourse initially thought of managing the infrastructure by itself but later decided to just outsource the management requirement as it wanted to focus its efforts and resources on its key competencies.

A third-party service provider would eliminate the need for the PSE to worry about managing the flow of information in its online network.

The statement added that one of the stock market's primary considerations was the timely release of disclosures "to level the playing field."

These disclosures include corporate actions, financial reports and schedule of stockholders' meetings—factors that usually affect the decision of market participants.

The OdiSy even matches the US Securities and Exchange Commission's Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval (Edgar) system, that allowed US companies to file disclosures via the Internet in a safe online environment.

"This is actually the first time such a system is implemented in a stock exchange anywhere in Southeast Asia. We know that important information are very vulnerable to malicious attacks, and they become more so when the information can spell the loss or gain of business. We intend to protect the integrity of information in the system PSE entrusted to us," mSSI general manager Luis Gopez said.

mSSI is the country's first and only certification authority and is also a principal affiliate of US-based VeriSign Inc., the world's largest CA and leader in Internet trust services.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, September 25, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	3,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	45	45.5	530,800
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	10
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	30,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	29	29	101,900
First E-Bank Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.2	131,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	33.5	33.5	114,600
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	12	11.5	11.75	56,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	1,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1055	1055	1055	1055	200
Sun Life Financial Serv.	840	850	835	840	1,560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.5	7,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	2,960,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	485	487.5	485	485	8,710
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	600,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.95	4	2.95	3.5	340,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	285	290	282.5	287.5	82,470
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	28,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	2,600
Manila Electric Co. B	31	31	31	31	421,800
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	2,108,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	1,542,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	24,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.2	2.14	2.2	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	10,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	31.5	32	15,500
RFM Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.85	310,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	113,900
San Miguel Corp. B	55.5	58	55.5	58	712,600
Universal Robina Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	8,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	70,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	2,565,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.4	2.34	2.4	46,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	19,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,630,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	410,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	74,400
House of Investments Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	90,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,650,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	3,510,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,000,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	60,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.05	5	4.05	4.5	15,000
Pryce Corp.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	1,700,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	130,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.25	22.5	22.25	22.25	580,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	500
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	25,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	3.9	4	3.9	4	594,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	3,340,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	40,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	110,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	450,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	310,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	4,485,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	40,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	4,630,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	380,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	1,089,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.6	52,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	32,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	5,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	3,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,022,270	33,890,390.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	53,673,880	126,651,630.00
PRO	15,404,000	30,780,770.00
Mining	37,102,000	182,300.00
OIL	3,000,000	7,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	110,202,150	191,512,890.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	441.86	UP 1.74
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,551.61	UP 4.96
PRO	501.70	UP 3.32
Mining	1,140.80	UP 11.75
OIL	1.24	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	605.95	DOWN 2.34
Composite	1,126.60	UP 4.53

DISCLOSURES

FILSYN Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 14, 3:30 p.m. at the 21/F, Penthouse of Lepanto Building, Makati City. Stockholders as of Oct. 18 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. declared cash dividends of P1 per share on its series E, K, O and U 10-percent cumulative convertible preferred stocks in favor of stockholders as of Oct. 14 and shall be payable on Oct. 31. Cash dividends of P1 per share were also declared for its series C, D, J, T and X 10-percent cumulative preferred stocks for shareholders as of Oct. 24 and payable on Nov. 29. Also declared were cash dividends for the following convertible preferred shares: $1.03 per series III, P4.675 per series V, $0.99 per series VI and Y10.18 per series VIII. These dividends are payable on Oct. 15 in favor of shareholders as of Oct. 15.

* * *

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. confirmed it has disconnected its link with Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Co. due to the latter's failure to pay access charges to Digitel. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Sept. 25, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.018641	1.000000	52.4290
Japan	Yen	0.008258	0.008107	0.4250
United Kingdom	Pound	1.587654	1.558600	81.7158
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130605	0.128215	6.7222
Switzerland	Franc	0.683285	0.670781	35.1684
Canada	Dollar	0.641825	0.630080	33.0345
Singapore	Dollar	0.572174	0.561703	29.4495
Australia	Dollar	0.554543	0.544395	28.5421
Bahrain	Dinar	2.702110	2.652661	139.0764
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271631	0.266660	13.9807
Brunei	Dollar	0.570507	0.560067	29.3638
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023477	0.023047	1.2083
UAE	Dirham	0.277347	0.272272	14.2749
Korea	Won	0.000833	0.000818	0.0429
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.981700	51.4695
Argentina	Real	0.278317	0.273224	14.3249
Brazil	Real	0.282720	0.277546	14.5515
Denmark	Kroner	0.134504	0.132043	6.9229
India	Rupee	0.021081	0.020695	1.0850
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268099	0.263193	13.7989
Mexico	New Peso	0.099186	0.097371	5.1051
New Zealand	Dollar	0.479586	0.470810	24.6841
Norway	Kroner	0.136646	0.134145	7.0331
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017265	0.016949	0.8886
South Africa	Rand	0.095502	0.093754	4.9154
Sweden	Kroner	0.109907	0.107896	5.6569
Syria	Pound	0.023046	0.022624	1.1862
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029347	0.028810	1.5105
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000697	0.000684	0.0359

Gov't plans to undo tariff cuts under WTO

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is planning to undo the steep tariff cuts unilaterally made during the Aquino and Ramos administrations by raising tariffs on specific products at par with the rates in other countries.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas said the new policy directive from President Macapagal-Arroyo was meant to prevent the country from becoming the "biggest recipient" of foreign goods with the scheduled reduction of most favored nation (MFN) tariffs (or duties slapped on products from non-Asean countries) by 2004.

Roxas said the President had ordered her economic managers, specifically those at the Department of Trade and Industry and the National Economic and Development Authority, to review the impact of reversing the tariff cuts on the economy and on the country's trade relations with other countries.

He said the President sympathized with several industries that have been distressed by the previous administrations' decision to pledge drastic cuts in tariffs well ahead of other countries.

Some of the industries that have sought deferment of MFN tariff cuts were the automotive, paper, cement, petrochemicals, tiles, shoes, and steel sectors.

He said the President had ordered a review of all "unilateral and fast-tracked" tariff cuts made in the past with a view of realigning these rates to the levels imposed by other countries in the region.

"This policy is consistent with the DTI's long-standing position that the Philippines must review its position in the WTO trade liberalization program in light of the problems faced by local industries in adjusting to increased competition with imports," Roxas said.

The Federation of Philippines Industries claimed that the Philippines had already cut its average applied tariff rates on agricultural and industrial products from 28 percent and 14 percent in 1995, respectively, to 14 percent and 17 percent last year.

This was far ahead of the other WTO members' commitment to cut tariffs on all tradable products to at least 33 percent by 2004.

FPI noted that the average tariff on industrial products in the Philippines was 9.1 percent compared to Thailand's 43.7 percent, Indonesia's 14.9 percent, and Malaysia's 9.4 percent.

Franchising group seeks gov't funding for expansion

THE PHILIPPINE Franchise Association is banking on government funding and new capital from initial public offerings to bankroll the expansion of the franchising business in the country.

PFA founding chair Jose T. Pardo yesterday urged the National Development Co. to divert as much as P1 billion out of the projected P7 billion worth of IOUs that the state investment arm was planning to float this year.

Pardo said that franchising was one of the few bright spots in the economy which the government must support to encourage more Filipinos, particularly small and medium enterprises, to go into business through tried and tested formulas offered by franchises.

"Franchising insulates business from a hostile marketplace and this is shown by the industry's resilience after the 1997 financial crisis," Pardo said.

Pardo said a special financing package for franchises should fast-track the processing of loans for franchisees considering that disbursing banks would give more weight to the franchise value of the applicants.

During the 10th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo, PFA chair Samie Lim stressed the critical role to be played by the government in spurring the growth of the franchising industry in the country. "The franchise business in other countries such as the US and Malaysia had expanded rapidly because of the full backing of their respective governments," Lim said.

Aside from government funding, Lim said franchise applicants were looking at raising fresh capital by selling their shares in the stock market.

Lim said several fashion retailers, such as Bench, Kamiseta, Bayo and Penshoppe, were seriously studying the possibility of holding IPOs (initial public offerings) this year to generate cheap money to finance their overseas expansion. *Gil C. Cabacungan*

Gov't urged to do a repeat of Luxembourg bond issue

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said Philippine debt papers remained a hit among foreign and local investors that banks were clamoring for the government to do a repeat of the five-year bond issue listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

"Even before we left Manila, we had received a lot of proposals telling us that we can tap the last issue or other issues. People were saying they have identified investors who were interested in taking big chunks of Philippine debt papers," said Camacho in a teleconference with reporters.

Early this month, the government raised $300 million from the sale of five-year bonds eventually listed in the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

The finance secretary said the government had been receiving proposals almost daily for a borrowing, indicating robust investor interest in Philippine debt papers despite concerns of the financial markets over the government's widening budget gap.

Camacho noted that the cost of the proposed Luxembourg borrowing had gone down.

"If we were to increase or re-open the five-year issue, the rates are now lower than what we paid three weeks ago," said the finance chief.

The coupon rate for the five-year bonds was 7.5 percent. Orders for the Philippine bonds sold early this month reached $525 million but the government capped the borrowing at $300 million.

The finance secretary said the government was yet to evaluate the borrowing proposals from investment banks as any forthcoming debt issue would be used to fund borrowing requirements for 2003 estimated to reach $2.4 billion.

"If there are compelling reasons to prefund next year's requirements, we might do something. I suppose that after the roadshow, there will be more interests in Philippine debt papers," said Camacho.

But the finance chief said earlier that funds meant for 2003 might be used late this year to replace some local borrowings if the domestic market would push interest rates up.

As far as financing the deficit, Camacho said the government already has sufficient funds to breach the gap between revenues and spending requirements equivalent to 4 percent of the gross domestic product, or about P160 billion.

The government was able to raise about $2 billion from the foreign markets to finance this year's requirements on top of the P63 billion generated from the issuance of three-and-five-year retail bonds.

These borrowings do not include the P30 billion worth of funds that the government borrows from the local market monthly from the auction of treasury bills and bonds.

Stable...

From page B1

both gave the Philippines a negative outlook rating in October 2000 during the height of the juetengate scandal and only reversed the decision to stable during the first quarter of 2002. Standard & Poor's said last week that the government's rising budget deficit would make a rating upgrade unlikely in the near term.

Fitch noted in its August statement that the Philippines' fiscal problems could not have come at a worse time when financial markets were comparing its situation with Latin American countries, particularly Brazil.

The rating firm explained that the country's fundamentals were stronger compared to Brazil in terms of macroeconomic performance, favorable interest rates, large current account surplus, and modest external financing requirement.

BPI Family sets aside P5B for lending to housing sector

By Elena R. Torrijos

BPI Family Savings Bank, the thrift bank arm of Ayala-controlled Bank of the Philippine Islands, is setting aside P5 billion for lending to the housing sector next year.

In a statement, BPI Family Bank said the multiplier effect—the creation of more jobs and increased businesses—of end-user housing loans would boost economic growth.

"BPI Family Savings Bank housing loan demand has been strong with end user loan growth at 15 percent for this year, as against a flat industry loan growth. In fact, applications in September are double the applications in January," BPI Family Bank president Aurelio Montinola III said.

The strong demand for loans stems from the reduction in the bank's interest rates from 14 percent last year to 8.75 percent fixed for the first year. The bank also offers different repayment packages such as lower down payment levels and longer tenors for the housing loans.

In a briefing with reporters yesterday, Montinola said that between last year and this year, the bank reported P10 billion in new consumer loans with the recent acquisition of loan portfolios accounting for about 50 percent of total.

Montinola said that on a consolidated basis, BPI group (the parent firm and its subsidiaries) did not foresee loan growth this year.

"If we can get back to square one (same as before), we will be happy," Montinola, who is also BPI senior executive vice president, said.

There has been little demand from large corporations, he pointed out.

"We are looking at the SMEs (small and medium enterprises) closely because we want to see if we can do something about it (this sector)," Montinola said. "We are trying to determine which types of SMEs we will lend to."

RP seen far from...

From page B1

that's when priorities get set aside, even political reforms, but more importantly, economic reforms. So we want the government to put all economic policies in place this year," she said.

The government last month appointed a new tax collection chief, Guillermo Parayno and vowed to eradicate corruption and inefficiency in the tax system.

Parayno's predecessor quit, accusing staff of sabotaging his efforts to increase collection.

High debt level

Some analysts have compared Manila's fiscal problems with the crisis in Latin America, where Argentina has defaulted on debt amid a political and currency crisis. They warn that the longer it takes to implement reform, the more likely it is that the Philippines will suffer contagion.

The Philippine government's total outstanding debt stood at P2.66 trillion at the end of July—or around 70 percent of GDP. Nearly half, P1.265 trillion, was foreign debt.

Fitch Ratings has expressed concern over the level of foreign currency debt, which it said makes the Philippines vulnerable to exchange rates. But the rating agency added that a large current account surplus, steady economic performance and low real interest rates meant the country was better off than Brazil.

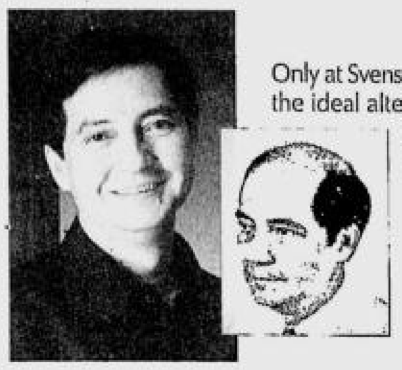
"If one wants to write (the Philippines) is in a crisis mode, it is not. It is still very much in their hands to bring it back into the right direction and they are putting policies in the right direction. You just have to see the fruits of those actions appear," Shahani said.

Jojo Gonzales, research head at Philippine Equity Partners in Manila, said he was encouraged by double-digit revenue growth in August, compared with August 2001.

The government has also started preparing state assets for sale, such as a 10-percent stake in power distributor Manila Electric.

"The question is really next year. Realistically, in the early part of next year, they have to show performance on the revenue collection effort to kind of soothe the market that everything is more in control," Gonzales said.

Recover the Look,



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BY THE PHILIPPINE WELDING SOCIETY

SEPT 25 (WEDNESDAY)	
1:00 - 3:00pm	Technologies in Shielding Gases & Related Equipment by: CIGI/SIG
3:00 - 4:00pm	Introduction to Lincoln Electric's Products and Services by: Lincoln Electric Phils.Inc
SEPT 26 (THURSDAY)	
1:00 - 3:00pm	Manufacturing of Quality Electrodes by: Industrial Welding Corporation
3:00 - 4:00pm	Various Products Demo/ Presentation by: Loctite/ Henkel Phils, Inc
SEPT 27 (FRIDAY)	
1:00 - 3:00pm	Post-Weld Heat Treatment by: Voest Alpine
3:00 - 4:00pm	OGP's 3D Non-Contact Measuring Machines by: Maadan Enterprises
4:00 - 5:00pm	Welding Automation by: Toolec, Inc.
SEPT 28 (SATURDAY)	
1:00 - 3:00pm	Philippine Welding Society Gen. Membership Convention by: Philippine Welding Society

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SEPT 25 (WEDNESDAY)	
1:00 - 3:00pm	Definition & History of Lean Manufacturing
1:30 - 2:00pm	Elements of Lean Philosophy
2:00 - 2:30pm	Waste Elimination
2:30 - 3:15pm	Techniques of Lean Manufacturing a) Value Stream Mapping b) Measurable
3:15 - 3:30pm	BREAK
3:30 - 6:00pm	HHH Workshop

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MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Is 'sue me' an automaker's fearless dare?

By Tessa R. Salazar

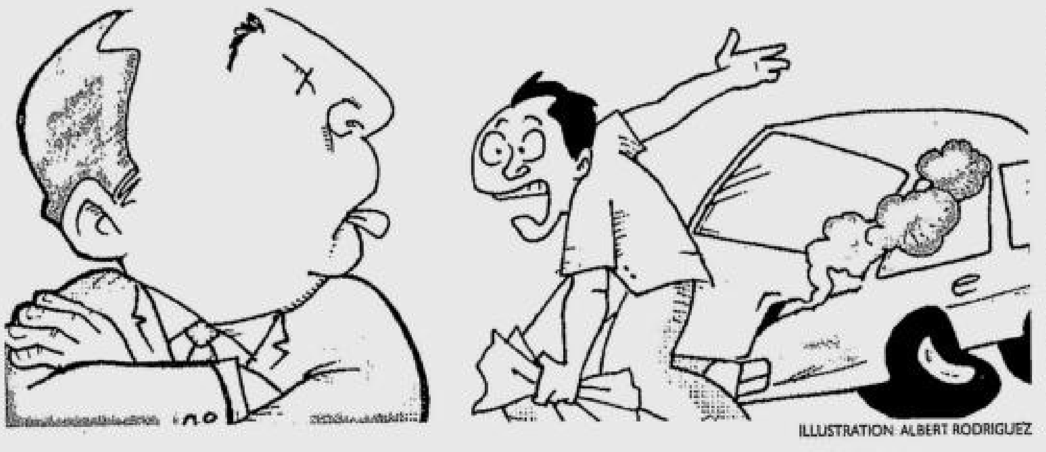

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THE CUSTOMER is king, until something goes wrong. Auto consumer complaints left hanging and unsettled are largely reflections of whoever is on top.

This was the description of automotive technology consultant Alex Loinaz when asked about auto consumers' complaints and how auto manufacturers' top executives handle them.

The general attitude "you sue me and let's see how long it's going to take" is the mind-set of some auto manufacturers, it seems. The attitude of "*pahabaan ng pisi*" is a problem of whoever is on top or whoever is running it, he said.

"Take it to court and let's see who has the better logistics to fight it out. You will run out of finances. It will cost you more" is the attitude of some automakers, he said.

Automobile Association of the Philippines consultant Johnny Angeles, former AAP executive director, said consumers are no match to well-entrenched car manufacturers who employ high-caliber law offices. He said that in his last 12 to 13 years, he has endorsed complainants at the Department of Trade and Industry as well as cases where complainants were given the runaround.

Truck Manufacturers Association president Elizabeth Lee said that no manufacturers would like "to shoot themselves on the foot."

Most of the time if customers are handled properly and the complaints are answered or there is a solution provided with a time frame, 9 out of 10 problems are solved, she said. She cited that there could be cases where problems have not been solved but these may have several causes among which could be mishandling of customers and giving false hopes. She stressed that it all boils down to customer handling.

"I don't think any assembler would say let's meet in court. It would not be for the benefit of anybody."

Lee said that if it's under warranty and the customer has actually done the regular preventive maintenance check then there should be no problem. The only time the warranty could be voided is if the customer did not actually undergo preventive maintenance service.

The Bureau of Trade and Regulation and the Department of Trade and Industry's National Capital Region reported last month that they had received 81 complaints from auto consumers between January and June 2002. In 2001, the BTRCP and the DTI-NCR received 96 complaints. Most of these complaints involved product quality, warranty and service, undelivered goods, deceptive, unconscionable and misleading sales practices.

"If the top executives are customer-oriented, they will right away jump and everybody will pamper their customers," said Loinaz.

The country doesn't have adequate laws that protect the consumers such as the Lemon Law and the National Highway Traffic Law similar to the United States. There is an agency that records all the problems.

"There is a consumer law but how many have really been protected by it. How many have really availed of that protection?" he asked.

The manufacturer should assure the customer that the vehicle would be well-attended to. The moment a problem is encountered by a dealer, this will be referred to the manufacturer since the dealers have limitations.

Said Loinaz: "The dealer and the manufacturer should come to the rescue—immediately and at no time at all. If they want to promote good relations with the customer, they have to attend to them right away."

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said in a previous interview that the Consumers Act or Republic Act 7394 provides means of redress for consumers. "It's not so much to punish manufacturers but to give back what is due to the consumers."

Owners share sad experiences about new but defective Revos

By Juliet L. Javellana

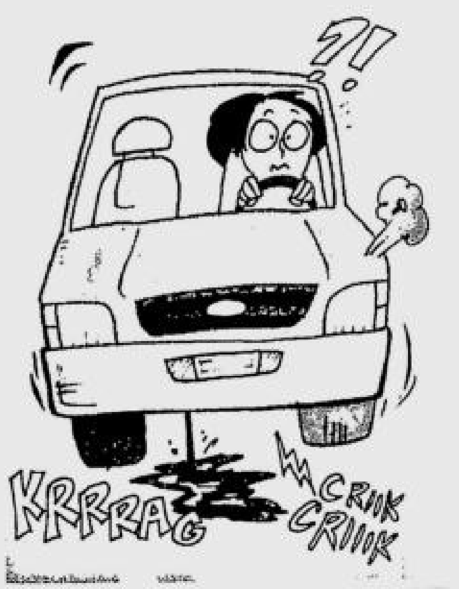

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

TAKE a second hard look if you're buying a Toyota Revo.

If you're unlucky, you might end up with a very expensive lemon and be one of the customers complaining about the after sales service.

Many cases of brand-new Revos with engine, transmission and other problems were recently brought to the attention of the INQUIRER by their owners.

And despite the Consumers Act of the Philippines, the disappointed owners have to endure indifferent dealers and tenacious manufacturer in getting their money's worth. The following are only a few of the cases.

'Apparently a lemon'

- Luzviminda Sajines, a resident of Cainta, Rizal, bought a Toyota Revo DLX on Aug. 29, 2000 from Toyota Manila Bay Corp.

As they were driving the new vehicle home that very day, they heard an "unusual noise" from the engine which became louder as the trip went on. Two days later, the persistent noise from the engine was accompanied by an irregularity in the temperature gauge.

When they brought the vehicle to Toyota Cubao, a sister company of her dealer, she was told that the engine had to be "put down." She was hesitant to agree because the vehicle was just two days old.

During the checkup, it was also discovered that her brand-new unit had two dents on the front and back doors.

She decided to ask her dealer to change the unit "since the vehicle I bought was apparently a lemon."

She said the TMBC mechanics "made adjustments"' on the engine of her unit without the presence of her brothers who brought the unit back there. She said TMB refused to inform them of its findings.

She requested a change of vehicle in writing but there was no action.

She said that because of the "obstinate and unjustified failure and refusal of TMBC to rectify" the defective Revo, she filed a case with the Department of Trade and Industry in Rizal and later elevated it to the main office.

Her case has been languishing in the DTI for one year and a half now.

Florencio Singson, her lawyer, said the case has not moved after 10 hearings because of various dilatory tactics by the Toyota lawyers.

Janine De Guzman, customer relations officer of TMBC, told the INQUIRER that TMBC was firm on its decision not to replace the vehicle.

TMBC evaluated the unit and found it "normal," De Guzman said. "Thick engine noise is normal for diesel engines."

Singson said the case was delayed because of an extended maternity leave of DTI hearing officer Werlina Reyes.

Singson lamented that Toyota was rude in handling his client. He said this was the opposite of his other client who had a problem with an Isuzu Crosswind.

He said Isuzu Manila even went to his client's house to get the unit and fixed it to the owner's complete satisfaction.

'Tolerable' problem?

- Jaime and Dang Bere bought a Revo GLX A/T on May 24, 2002 from Toyota Shaw-Ortigas.

She said that after three weeks, they noticed that the rear right tire protruded by an inch. They called the attention of their dealer but they were told that the problem was "tolerable."

Said Dang: "They even asked my husband to look for other GLX units with the same problem.

"We were so tired that day and with that kind of reply we felt that the Toyota slogan of 'best in after-sales service' was not true at all," she said.

Dang said they had to bring their complaint to the manufacturer, Toyota Motors Phils. Corp. before the dealer can be convinced to attend to them. It took a month before the dealer asked them to bring the unit for checkup but the protruding tire has not been fixed.

"We settled for Toyota because it is synonymous with quality. We spent so much money only to be treated this way," she said.

When the INQUIRER called up the dealer, customer relations assistant Corina Manahan said they were not dealing with Dang Bere but her husband.

"It's just an inquiry," Manahan said, prompting Dang Bere to call her up.

Eyeopener

- This reporter's family experience was also an eyeopener. The Revo GSX A/T we bought on March 20, 2001 suddenly slowed down sometime in June this year. It was only one year and four months old and had 18,000 kilometers, way below the 50,000-km warranty coverage.

We brought the vehicle back to the dealer, Toyota Balintawak North, which promised to fix it within the day (July 6).

It stayed with them for a full 50 days.

For several days, the TBN's service advisers said they could not find the problem and called in engineers from the Toyota plant to find it.

We found out unofficially that the valve body was taken down and that gaskets have to be shipped from Japan, which took several weeks to arrive. To TBN's credit, it provided us a service unit after we made the demand.

We were told verbally after nearly two months the problem was "engine low power" and that it could not shift to third gear. Some industry insiders told us that the problem was unusual and that we were unlucky to get a lemon.

We asked three times for a written report on our unit but the dealer refused, saying it was confidential.

Yet Republic Act 7394, the Consumer Act of the Philippines, requires that no work, repair or service job shall be commenced without a specified written authority or job order contract with the customer.

We found out (also verbally) that our dealer asked for a replacement of the transmission but it was rejected by TMPC.

We wrote two letters to TMPC president Nobuharu Tabata asking for a replacement of our vehicle.

We made the request because we wanted to get our money's worth. We tried to make him understand how important it was for us not to be cheated with our money because we are fixed income earners who would be paying our car loan for many years more.

Since we did not know the actual condition of our vehicle and the repairs done on it, we said we lost confidence on the unit even if the dealer said it had been fixed.

The TMPC president never bothered to reply to our two letters. Instead, Raymond Rodriguez, Toyota VP for vehicle sales, wrote on Sept. 18 that the replacement was "not possible."

The Revo that we bought failed to live up to its advertised qualities. We expected Toyota to be responsible enough to its customers, but they knew we were only small people who could not afford the cost and length of litigation.

"They will just ignore you until you give up," my husband said.

Happy endings

Two other Revo cases with startling defects had relatively happy endings for their owners but they nevertheless tell something about the quality of the Revo.

- Mrs. NC (who prefers to be anonymous) bought a Revo GLX in November 1998 from Toyota Pasong Tamo.

After three months, its engine oil started to leak. It turned out there was a crack in the engine. For several months, she said the dealer paid no attention to their problem.

It was only when she sought the help of lawyer Antonio G. Arellano, known as Attorney Aga, who has a popular program "Ito ang Batas" on RMN radio, that TMPC and her dealer attended to her. Attorney Aga wrote a strongly worded letter to the TMPC president.

"*Kung hindi ako nag-media, walang mangyayari sa problema ko,*" she said.

She said the dealer told her it would take a very long time to replace her unit so she settled for an engine overhaul.

- A couple from Olongapo bought a Revo Sport Runner from a dealer in Quezon City in April 2000.

A few days later, the vehicle suddenly stopped dead in the middle of the road. The owner could not start it.

"I was ashamed to push it. My neighbors might laugh if they see a brand-new Revo being pushed," he said.

But because he could not move the vehicle, he called the dealer who sent a tow service and brought the unit back to Quezon City.

The vehicle's computer system failed.

They refused to take back the same unit. To his dealer's credit, it immediately replaced the vehicle with a brand-new, shining Revo SR.

He wondered what happened to his original, black Revo SR.

But this year, the new vehicle again broke down in the middle of the expressway because of a fanbelt problem.

"I also have a Honda (LXi) and I noticed that Honda's after-sales service is preemptive. They do not wait for you to complain about a problem, they fix it as soon as they find it," he said.

But Toyota, he said, failed to fix the fanbelt problem even if he made this request the last time he brought the vehicle for its periodic checkup. Thus, the vehicle broke down risking accident on the expressway.

Where Canada beats the US

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

OTTAWA, Ontario—The US dollar may be worth more than the Canadian dollar (US$1.00=C$1.65 last time I looked), but when it comes to motor vehicle safety standards, Canada's are superior.

This I found out during a chat with David Stevenson, manager for Standards and Accreditation of the Canadian Automobile Association. In the mid-1980s, according to Mr. Stevenson, automotive safety standards changed in the United States and Canada, with the US relaxing some standards.

For example, the US government reduced the speed (from 10 miles per hour to 5 mph) at which vehicle bumpers should be able to withstand a collision. Canada, on the other hand, retained the 10 mph bumper crash standard. Other examples: Canada requires motor vehicles to have daytime running lights, the US does not. Seat anchorage standards are also more rigid in Canada than in the US.

Canada's superior automotive safety standards are largely due to the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA), which has grown to more than four million members since its formation in 1913. A federation of 11 independent auto clubs, each with its own assigned territory, the CAA covers all of Canada in its mission to improve motoring and traveling conditions for all Canadians.

Inform and influence

Every year, the CAA publishes in booklet form a Statement of Policy containing the views of CAA members on a wide range of issues that concern motorists and travelers. The CAA document aims to inform and influence policy and decision makers in both the private and public sectors who shape Canada's public policies. The Statement of Policy also serves as a guide to all CAA member clubs in their representations with provincial and local governments.

The issues addressed in the CAA's Statement of Policy are divided into nine groups: Transportation Facilities, Taxation, Vehicle Standards, Consumer Needs, Operating Regulations, Traffic Safety and Education, Enforcement, Tourism and Environment.

The thoroughness with which the CAA tackles a safety issue can be gleaned from its five policy recommendations regarding tires, for example. Under the Vehicle Standards group subhead, the CAA recommends that provincial governments enact a law requiring motor vehicle tires to have a wearing thickness of at least 1/16 of an inch (1.6 millimeters) of tread on the tire face, and that use beyond this limit should be prohibited.

Also, that the use of recapped tires on the steering axles of trucks having a gross vehicle weight rating exceeding 4,500 kilograms (10,000 lb) be prohibited.

Warning indicator

Furthermore, that the benefits of requiring the installation of tire pressure monitoring systems in new passenger cars, light trucks and multipurpose vehicles (read: sport utility vehicles and minivans) be researched and that data regarding precash tire pressure in association with crash types be collected. The CAA advocates the inclusion of a warning indicator in the vehicle's system that lights up to inform the driver when the vehicle has a significantly under-inflated tire.

Perhaps because of lessons learned from the recall of millions of defective Firestone tires in North America several years ago, the CAA urges the federal government to continue monitoring tire registration systems developed by manufacturers and importers to ensure that all tires sold are being properly recorded.

Under the Operating Regulations group subhead, the CAA recommends that in conducting motor vehicle safety inspections following any collision, not only safety devices should be confirmed as meeting reasonable standards, but also other factors such as tire tread and misaimed headlights.

These were the CAA's policy recommendations on tires alone. The organization's Statement of Policy for 2002-2003 has many more recommendations regarding other aspects of motoring that deserve to be studied and considered by our own Automobile Association Philippines (formerly Philippine Motor Association).

With its annual Statement of Policy, the CAA shows the auto clubs of other countries how to get their members actively involved in shaping government policy in important areas such as motor vehicle taxes, toll facilities, motor vehicle warranties, speed limits, automobile insurance, traffic courts, police traffic safety and enforcement services.

Vietnam quota rules alarming, says Asian motorcycle group

By Charles E. Buban

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

VIETNAM'S decision to reduce the import of motorcycle components early this month has caused alarm to several motorcycle manufacturers in the region. These manufacturers said the move has already cost them some $270 million and the loss of 21,000 jobs in that country alone and many more in other countries.

The Federation of Asian Motorcycle Industries (Fami), which held a three-day conference last week at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City, said the revised quota rules has forced Honda, Vietnam's dominant motorcycle makers to suspend production, saying it had run out of parts supply.

"Vietnam's move imposes a very restrictive business environment that is against free trade development," declared Fami president Dato Syed Mohamad Aidid, who also represents the Motorcycle and Scooter Assemblers' Association of Malaysia. "We are all aware that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) is increasingly moving toward becoming an Asean Free Trade Area and Vietnam's move hinders its integration into the international economy."

Vietnam was previously the biggest market for imported motorcycle parts in Southeast Asia. The country used to import approximately 2.5 million units of production parts annually but with the implementation of the new quota, this number is trimmed down to about 1.5 million units. This is a move that adversely affects the status of the entire Asian motorcycle industry, according to Hiroyuki Nakamura of Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, a Fami member. "We don't think the import quota would result in any advantage that they (Vietnam) can benefit from," he added.

The Singapore-based federation includes as its members all major motorcycle manufacturers from Japan, Taiwan, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. In its report, Fami did not give a breakdown for the losses and jobs in specific countries.

Suspend operations

Before the restriction, Honda Vietnam, a joint venture between Honda Group and the Vietnam Engineering and Agriculture Machinery Corp., produces some 600,000 motorcycles a year. Last June, it began exporting its top-of-the-line Honda Wave "Alpha" bike to the Philippines, marking its first venture into the export market. Eventually, exports will be expanded to include other countries mainly in the Asean region.

But with the quota instituted early this month, Honda's import quota on motorcycle parts was reduced to 280,000, which prompted the Japanese manufacturer to suspend its motorcycle factory operations there. Honda Vietnam, which began mass production in December 1997, did not specify when it will resume operation.

Also reacting on the restriction, the Vietnam unit of Suzuki hinted it may also be forced to suspend output of motorcycles in November and December if the (Vietnam) government does not ease quotas imposed on the import of motorcycle components. If Suzuki decided to push through with the suspension, they could be the second largest foreign motorcycle maker in Vietnam to also stop production.

"Not only that, Yamaha may also follow suit. You see, as member of the Asean family, the Philippines is concerned about these news of pullouts in Vietnam. Certainly, this will have an impact on these companies' operations in other countries in the region," said Mateo Ocenar, president of Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association, whose members include Honda Philippines, Kawasaki Motor Philippines, Norkis Trading (Yamaha), Porta Coeli Industrial Co., SC Kymco Pilipinas and Suzuki Philippines.

"The Philippines also manufactures motorcycles, which are being exported to other countries. Imagine losing one Asean market and that would equate to the loss of thousands of jobs here. Considering the 3 million motorcycle users here, the Philippines is a fledgling motorcycle market compared to its Asean neighbors," Ocenar informed.

Motorcycles are the main mode of transport in Southeast Asian countries. Vietnam, with a population of around 80 million, has more than nine million motorcycles in use. With its registered motorcycles expected to reach 95 to 100 million units by 2005, China is the world's largest motorcycle market.

Reduce accident rate

Vietnam on its part justified the restriction as a way to reduce the country's high traffic accident rate. Statistics show that 10,548 people were killed on roads last year, majority of which were accidents involving motorcycles. Other sectors, however, believe the import restrictions were designed to foster struggling local auto parts makers by protecting them from massive imports.

According to the quota restriction, 600,000 sets—with each set equating to one motorbike—are reserved for the seven foreign-invested producers in Vietnam. The remaining 900,000 sets shall be divided among the country's 55 domestic assemblers.

But even with Honda's suspended operations and other foreign motorcycle manufacturer's intention to follow suit, Vietnam seemed unaffected when it announced its plan to increase tariffs on imported bikes to protect local firms from heavier competition when import quotas are lifted. It even proposed levying a 100 percent import tax on motorcycles assembled overseas from Jan. 1, 2003 to compensate for the simultaneous removal of import restrictions on them.

Currently, companies importing preassembled bikes into Vietnam require a special license from the government and each unit is taxed at 60 percent. As a result, most are assembled from a combination of parts imported from overseas and those manufactured by local companies. Vietnam said the tax adjustment was necessary to ensure imports would not hurt the operations of the Southeast Asian nation's more than 60 foreign-invested and local assemblers.

Motorshow kickoff activities tomorrow at Alabang Town Center

MOTORSHOW International (Philippines), the country's premier auto and cycle exhibit, will hold tomorrow at the Alabang Town Center its day-long kickoff activities featuring nonstop DJ music and hourly raffles of door prizes, among others.

The kickoff will serve as a preview for this year's Motorshow, which will officially open on Oct. 2 and run until Oct. 6 at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

The fun, games and excitement at the Motorshow kickoff will start at 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. and will be held along Theater Drive at the Alabang Town Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Marisa Nallana, Motorshow director general, said the Motorshow kickoff will also feature a showcase of vintage and classic cars where the public will have the chance to see up close MGs, Minis, BMWs and other rare models.

There will also be club games among members of the country's different car clubs like the MG Club, the Mini Club, the BMW Club, the Mitsubishi Club and the Volkswagen Club. Car lovers will be allowed to have their photos taken with their dream cars at the kickoff site, Nallana added.

Trivia games will be held among guests and visitors for more fun, and free entrance tickets to the Motorshow proper will be given away to lucky guests. Special prizes also await the early birds to the Motorshow kickoff.

Started in 1989, Motorshow (International) Philippines has become the most successful auto and cycle exhibit in the country, with the top car and motorcycle assemblers, manufacturers, importers and dealers gather under one roof to showcase their newest products in the market.

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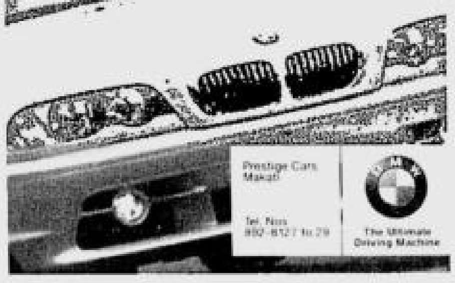

Xpert diesel oils keep you on the go

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Rev-X Hauler is an excellent engine oil for mixed commercial and transport fleets that are subjected to long distance driving. It helps improve engine performance and offers better engine protection under severe operating conditions. This extra heavy-duty, single-grade engine oil maintains engine cleanliness by reducing piston deposits and minimizing bearing corrosion.

The ideal match for modern on-road and off-road diesel vehicles is the high-endurance Rev-X Trekker. A premium, heavy-duty, multigrade engine oil, designed to meet even the demanding requirements of modern diesel engines in American, European, and Japanese on- and off-road vehicles. Among its many benefits are excellent antioxidant performance; superior soot, sludge and varnish control; and protection against nonferrous corrosion. And since drain intervals with Rev-X Trekker are longer than regular diesel engine oils, engine protection is maintained over this extended period.

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DODGE Dakota's big, burly look, seems to say it's ready to take on anything that comes its way

A second look at Dodge Dakota

Text and photo by
Charles E. Buban

DRIVING a Dodge Dakota has always been a fun experience that this mid-size pickup deserves a second look. Introduced in the Philippines late last year, the Dakota has caught the attention of Filipino drivers who don't want a full-size truck, but considers a compact pickup too small. They say, the Dakota is just the thing for them.

Classified as a mid-size pickup, the Dakota is smaller than a Ford F-150 or Chevy Silverado, yet bigger than the Ford Ranger. Dodge strategically promotes the Dakota, exclusively distributed here by Norkis Automotive Resources Corp., as the biggest, most powerful and most capable compact pickup on the market.

"Call it compact but it's probably the only one offering V8 power. It's more versatile than other compact pickups but without quite as much bulk as a full-size truck, which makes it a perfect complement to our narrow road networks," said Porti Vencer, NARC national marketing manager.

My scorecard

So how do I rate this SUV? On my scorecard, the Dodge Dakota rated high on looks and overall design (4 out of 5). Dakota's bold lines give it a big, burly look, like it's ready to take on anything that comes its way. The view from the driver's seat of the Dakota is nothing short of commanding. You almost feel omnipotent and at P1.450 million price tag this compact pickup is a sure head turner.

The Dakota's powerful engine and excellent towing capacity should merit 4.5 points on the engine and drivetrain department. Dodge claims its 4.7-liter V8 over head valve Sequential multipoint fuel injection engine is the most refined V8 ever offered on a Dodge truck. It's powerful indeed: rated at 235 horsepower and 295 foot-pounds of torque, it has all the power and torque you'd expect from a V8. The Dakota Quad Cab we took on for a ride is equipped with a four speed automatic transmission with rotary dial for the electrically controlled transfer case, giving an easy control if you want 4x2, 4x4 High or 4x4 Low mode.

Looks and overall design ●●●●
Convenience features ●●●◐
Safety ●●●●
Handling and riding comfort ●●●●
Engine and drivetrain ●●●●◐
Fuel economy ●●●

The rear doors open wide—almost 90 degrees—so getting in and out of the back row is very easy. Plus with the power features (windows, door locks, steering, side-view mirrors, driver seat and cruise control) and an instrument panel that was made easier to reach and easier to use, I gave the Dakota 3.5 under the convenience features department.

Still roomier

The rear-seating area in the Dakota Quad Cab is roomier than that of any other compact truck. Nevertheless, legroom is still limited that taller folk will find the space confining. Children and smaller adults should be happy enough back there, though. If not hauling people, you can make better use of the rear half of the Dakota Quad Cab by folding its 60/40 split bench seat and creating a convenient and secure storage area. The seat folds entirely out of the way—not all compact trucks allow you to do that. Or, you can set up half of the rear seat for a passenger and still have room to tote stuff. The "stow and go" rear seats, by the way, create almost 30 cubic feet of space.

On the safety department, I gave the Dakota another 4. The Dakota's next-generation airbags (featuring a supplementary restraining system), front seat knee blocker, an antilock braking system, child protection rear door locks, 3-point seatbelt and dynamic side-impact intrusion protection ensure you have a safe and comfortable ride.

In terms of handling and riding comfort, the Durango scored 4 stars. Steering is commendably responsive as one of our experienced drivers commented when he tried zigzagging the pickup in one of the lonely strips of the C5 highway. And because of the Dakota's narrow 36-foot turning diameter, negotiating around the narrow streets isn't a problem, assured Edwin Vergara of NARC. "You would feel like driving a monster truck, so you are more confident even when parking this compact pickup," he added.

Like its brother Durango, you shouldn't expect this pickup to save on unleaded gasoline (3 points on fuel economy). With a powerful V8 engine and an all-wheel drive system, it's rated at 5.52 km/L (city) 7.64 km/L (highway). Just be careful when filling up Dakota's enormous fuel tank, with a full tank capacity of 91 liters, you ought to have some cash with you.

Haiku for Otaka-san

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

LET me be the first to say farewell to Otaka-san. The president of Honda Cars Philippines will soon leave us. He will be reassigned to Indonesia middle of next month.

It will be his third stop in Asia.

The fiftyish Otaka-san was in Kuala Lumpur for almost four years before he was moved to Manila in 1999.

* * *

Before his arrival in Manila, Honda was No. 4 in the passenger car category—or so Otaka-san thought.

But hardly had he warmed his new perch did Honda shoot to No. 1. It was not until recently that Toyota regained its foothold on the market.

"But I guess being No. 2 when I leave is not bad," said Otaka-san in his usual humble self.

* * *

Before it got overtaken by Toyota, Honda was a consistent No. 1 in the passenger car category. Frankly, it could have easily maintained that rank if not for the shift of strategy.

As everybody now knows, Honda's bold move to transform its best-selling CR-V from SUV to AUV created not just ripples but waves in the industry.

To some of its major competitors, Honda's move was met with arched eyebrows. Some viewed it with derision. Others reacted with a shrug of the shoulder.

* * *

Can't blame them. Honda's dramatic move sort of revolutionalized the industry to its benefit of course but to the detriment of the opposition.

In short, Honda scored a financial success with its new CR-V. Do you know that the waiting time for one to be able to finally own a new CR-V is four months?

The demand is such that Honda has also restructured its job order priorities. To the uninitiated, the waiting time has become that long because many major components of the CR-V come from Japan. Honda does not have the habit of rushing up things as quality is the company's No. 1 motto.

* * *

The new CR-V is partly to blame for Honda's cars to drop to No. 2 behind Toyota (the Altis has really scored it big that you also must have to join the queue if you intend to buy one).

"We now have the so-called shifters from cars to utility vehicles," said TinTin Reyes of Honda. "Our records show that the buyers of CR-Vs are Honda loyalists. Many of them have sold their Honda Civics or even Accords and then bought new CR-Vs."

Although she did not say it, TinTin in effect was saying Honda caused its own downfall in the car category with its new CR-V. If it's a fad—the rash of AUV purchases, if not SUVs—only time will tell.

* * *

Somebody asked Otaka-san what his most cherish memory of Manila is, he said: "The Filipino friendship."

Elaborating, Otaka-san said, "Nobody can beat the sincerity of your friendship. No other race in the world can beat the Filipino friendship."

He said what sets the Filipino friendship apart from the rest of the world is "your extra effort to keep a friendship stronger as time goes on. I have yet to see a race other than the Filipino which would go out of its way to help a friend in times of need."

* * *

And what was Otaka-san's worst experience, if not memory, of Manila?

"The first day of Edsa 2 in 2000," he said. "I had this meeting with big businessmen. I was wearing black and my driver said it was dangerous for us to be seen in black."

He had his appointment cancelled—only to find out that his businessmen-friends had already cancelled their meeting as they were bound for the Edsa 2 rally.

* * *

I think Ray Butch Gamboa is right. Otaka-san is the most candid of all the presidents of car companies in the Philippines.

"Maybe because you find me talkative?" said Otaka-san, a chain smoker with a mean swing in golf.

"Of course not," said Ray Butch, the Elvis Presley of motoring journalism. "You are not actually talkative. You simply have a good command of English and you can really articulate things."

* * *

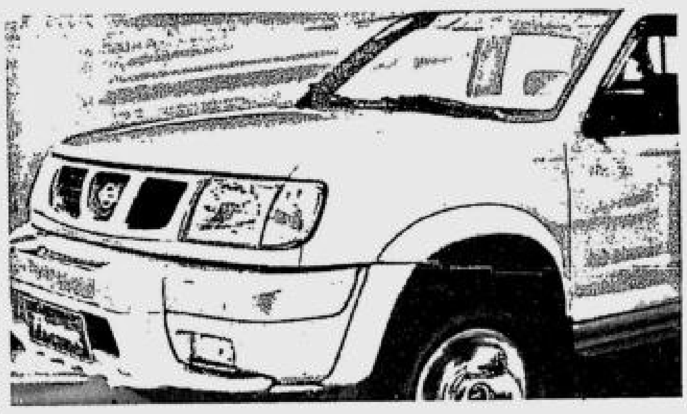
Not known to many, Otaka-san is a poet.

"I used to do haiku (Japanese poetry in verse) when I was in college," he said.

And so, to Otaka-san, here's my own humble haiku for him:

"Clouds of smoke curl
from lips that I dare warn not
to say farewell please"

Frontier still No. 1 selling pickup



NISSAN Frontier

THE NISSAN Frontier outpaced the competition once again in the double cab compact pickup sales category for the month of August.

According to official industry sales figures submitted by members of the Truck Manufacturers' Association, the Frontier zoomed ahead with a whopping 44 percent in the 4x2 compact pickup category and 36.1 percent in the combined 4x2 and 4x4 segment.

A total of 188 units were sold in the month of August alone cementing the brands' strong market leadership.

The Frontier has been leading the double cab compact pickup segment for the past two years and continues to be No. 1 year-to-date (from January to August) with sales of 1,271 units or 30.2 percent. This proves that the Frontier's distinct power and style appeals to the taste of today's discriminating market.

The Frontier, distributed by Universal Motors Corp., is the forerunner when it comes to power, comfort and style. It is equipped with the biggest engine displacement of 2.7L and 3.2L engines and boasts of luxurious features, style and exceptional performance.

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What's the difference between R-12 and R134a car freon? Which is cooler?
—*Paul Michael Solis*

THE R in both stands for Refrigerant. The big difference, however, is that R-12—the gas commonly known as Freon—contains CFCs or chlorofluorocarbons. And everybody knows that CFCs damage the earth's ozone layer. That's why an ozone-friendly alternative, Refrigerant 134a, was introduced.

Older vehicles from the early '90s and before that had air-conditioning systems filled with R-12 gas. Now if you own one of these vehicles and would like to do our planet a favor, you can't just switch to R-134a instantly. Its introduction to a system previously running on R-12 gas will require some changes.

You could consider buying entirely new air-conditioning equipment or you can retrofit.

Retrofitting is what you call the process of converting existing equipment using CFC refrigerants to operate with non-ozone depleting refrigerants like R-134a.

Most R-12 systems can be retrofitted to the new ozone-friendly type of gas, but every vehicle needs to be evaluated and quoted for individually, since converting some vehicles can be more difficult and expensive than others.

As for the question which refrigerant is cooler—studies indicate that R-134a is about 10 percent less efficient in moving heat than R-12. But on the other hand, if you stick to R-12 and it ends up attacking our ozone layer, things are going to get hotter than any of us want to imagine.

Sport truck, custom car show opens

THE 2002 Caltex Delo Sport Truck & Custom Car Show yesterday opened with Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, veteran formula car driver Mike Potenciano and Caltex general manager Steven Mulvaney leading the special guests during the ribbon cutting ceremony. The show is ongoing until Sept. 29 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

The motor racing-inspired event will once again gather car enthusiasts to check out the latest in anything and everything about sport trucks, customized cars, speed parts, suspension upgrades, aero body kits, accessories and car care products. This is also the proper venue where racing enthusiasts can view up close the several racecars that will be on display during the five-day event such as formula cars, saloon cars, drag cars, rally cars and off-road 4x4 racing trucks.

As always, the show's main attraction is the highly modified 4x4 sport trucks and wildly customized cars competing for the "Best of Show" in each category. The contest brings out the best in Filipino craftsmanship, creativity and ingenuity—considered as some of the best in Asia. Other major awards at stake are "Best in Class," "Best in Paint," "Best Engine Display" and "Best Interior."

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Organized by TradeShow International Inc. (TSI), the show has for its theme "Muscle Car Mania." The 1960s will go down in history as the era of boom for the automobile industries. Whereas the '50s saw cars designed more for boulevard cruising, the '60s produced a bevy of streetcars with high performance written all over it. Today, these cars known as "Muscle Cars" have a very large cult following all over the world with collectors seriously outbidding one another for the most sought-after models like the Chevrolet Corvette Stingrays, Shelby Mustangs, Chrysler Hemi Cudas and Chargers, Ford Galaxies 500s, ZL-1 Camaros and Pontiac Firebird SD 455s and many more.

Muscle cars have only one common denominator, a large displacement motor with tons of horsepower. American car manufacturers were shoehorning their largest displacement high performance motors into intermediate sized cars to produce a power-to-weight ratio that will rival the most expensive exotic cars of that period for a fraction of the cost. However, these muscle cars were not destined for the twisty roads where handling is a premium. They were the kings of stop light racing where brutal straight-line acceleration is the name of the game. Several American "Muscle Cars" will be on display during the event.

To promote the motor racing, the organizers have lined up several seminars for the benefit of show visitors. Mike Potenciano, veteran racer and recent leg winner in the Asian Formula 2000 held in Thailand, will hold the seminar titled "How to get started in motor sports through karting" on Sept. 25 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. He will again conduct a seminar on advance racing techniques on Sept. 27 at 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Sports Values Inc. will hold a lecture on "How to get started in circuit racing" on Sept. 25 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. and on Sept. 27 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Race Motor sports Club will conduct a seminar on Sept. 26 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. and Sept. 27 from 2:00 to 3:30PM on the "Basics of slalom racing," another excellent entry-level racing program that will greatly enhance the driver's skill in car control. Talented racer Trevor Briggs will enlighten the show visitors about "Car Rally" and how you can get started in that racing discipline on Sept. 29, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Hotshot driver JP Tuazon will follow immediately with another informative seminar on "Making motor sports a career."

The show is presented by Caltex Delo and co-presented by Motolite Car Batteries. Gold sponsor is Yokohama Tires while the major sponsors are Ambi Pur and Sunrise Holiday Concepts. Minor sponsors are Magic 89.9, 103.5 K-lite, 99.5 RT, Wave 89.1, City lite 88.3, Auto Extreme, Powerhouse Communication and BMB Karaoke Superbrand.

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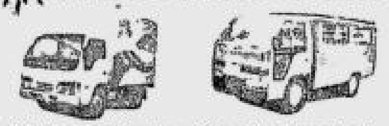

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites all eligible Bidders to Bid for the **Construction of a Two-storey Building, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Station and Fishing Technology Laboratory at Fishery Port Complex, Navotas, Metro Manila**, a project under the Bantay Dagat Program (KRII).

Only licensed building contractors are qualified to participate in the project.

Interested parties can obtain the pre-qualification requirements at the BAC Secretariat, BFAR Property Section, Ground Floor, Arcadia Bldg., Quezon Avenue, Quezon City from **September 25** to **September 27, 2002.**

Deadline for submission of two (2) copies of the pre-qualification documents will be on **October 03, 2002**. Bidding document will be made available from **October 07** to **October 09, 2002.**

Pre-Bid Conference will be on **October 11, 2002** at the BFAR Conference Room at 2:00 PM.

Submission and opening of Bids will be on **October 29, 2002** at 2:00 PM.

Approved budget for the contract is P 5,000,000.00. Bidders who were pre-qualified last December 2001 in this project are required to update their pre-qualification documents.

This office reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI--Sept. 26, 2002)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna

INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of Security and Janitorial Services.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO).

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	October 9-14, 2002/ 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	SPMO
Pre-Bid Conference	October 17, 2002, Thursday/10:00 AM	SPMO
Opening/Submission of bids	November 7, 2002, Thursday/10:00 AM	SPMO

Bidders shall submit two (2) sealed envelopes containing a) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. qualification requirements indicated in the checklist, bid security as to form amount and validity period, authority of signatory, after sales service/ parts, catalogues/brochures/other literatures, etc.); and b) FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS at the Supply and Property Management Office, UPLB.

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the agency or the BAC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any required formality in the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided in these IRR pertaining to the substance of a bid.

(Sgd.) DR. TERESITA M. ESPINO
Chair, BAC

(PDI - Sept 26 & Oct 3, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost Dangerous Drugs ID #19761N01 Issued to Dr. Geraldine L. Gonzales

PERSONAL

THANK YOU VERY HOLY SPIRIT Fr. Gemma Santos & Family

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin! Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your

---

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Diosdado Macapagal International Airport
Clark Special Economic Zone, Clark Field, Pampanga

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the project described below are invited to submit for Application for Eligibility and to Bid with the Clark Development Corporation (CDC), Clark Special Economic Zone, Clarkfield, Pampanga. Only eligible contractors with experience in the construction of Airport pavement works in the last 5 years will be invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name of the Project: **DMIA – Phase Two**
Taxiway D-02 and AOPS 04-06

B. Project Description/Scope of Works

The proposed project shall include supervision and supply for all labor, materials and equipment, as follows.

1. **Apron, AOPS 04, 05 & 06**

   Reconstruction and strengthening the existing apron consisting of the following: New PCC Pavement, Asphalt (AC) Overlay with geogrid paving membrane, Cracking and Seating of existing Pavement, Demolition of Existing PCCP, Cracking and Seating of existing Pavement, Demolition of Existing PCCP, Cracking and Seating of existing Pavement, Demolition of Existing PCCP, Drainage, Pavement Markings, and Apron Flood Lightings.

2. **Taxiway, TD-02**

   Reconstruction and strengthening the existing taxiway consisting of the following: Asphalt (AC) overlay with Geogrid membrane, Demolition of Existing PCCP, Drainage, Pavement Markings, and taxiway edge lightings.

3. **Miscellaneous Works**

   Demolition of existing Building 7576 and Re-grading the area for Drainage.

   Conduct Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) Testing in the finished pavement and determine PCN values for AIP reporting.

C. The Approved Budget for the Contract Works to be Bid is **(Php 250,000,000.00).**

D. Required PCAB Registration and Classification/License:

PCAB Principal Qualification and Category
General Engineering "AAA"
Kind of Project and Respective Size Ranges
Road, Highway Pavement, Railways, Airport horizontal structures and Bridges
Large Sub-Category B

E. Cost of Eligibility Statement/Forms

Php1,000.00 (non-refundable)

Issuance date: Sept. 30 to Oct. 4, 2002 only from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Clark Development Corporation
Clark Special Economic Zone, Clarkfield, Pampanga

F. Deadline for submission of Accomplished Eligibility Statements

October 11, 2002 (Wednesday) at 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Addressed to: **Mr. DOUGLAS B. YBALLE**
BAC Chairman
Clark Development Corporation
Clark Special Economic Zone, Clarkfield, Pampanga

G. Time and date of submission and opening of bids, Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibles.

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all contractors with valid PCAB (Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board) Contractors License and registration. Prospective bidders are required to submit a **letter of intent and certified true copy of the Contractors License** upon purchase of the forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid and shall bring the original copy of the Contractors PCAB License Classification Registration for verification and authentication purposes.

Bid Documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractors duly notified by CDC in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, award of contract and project implementation shall be governed by the latest provision of Executive Order No. 40 and PD 1594, as amended and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

CDC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government, nor does CDC guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd) **Mr. DOUGLAS B. YBALLE**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 26 & Oct. 3, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Diosdado Macapagal International Airport
Clark Special Economic Zone, Clark Field, Pampanga

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Clark Development Corporation (CDC) invites interested Filipino Domestic Contractors to submit Application for Eligibility, and subsequently to Bid, if found eligible, for the Project, to wit:

Contract Package Name and Location	Scope of Works	IAC Category and Classification	PCAB License Category	Approved Budget	Project Duration
Supply and Installation of Additional Taxiway Guidance Signage & Rehabilitation of Existing Signage with Replacement Spare Parts for DMIA, Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga	Airfield Ground Lighting System and Electrical Works with Civil Works	At least Medium B for Navaids Facilities (AGL) Installation and Electrical Works (Specialties)	"A" – General Engineering	Php 20 Million	150 Calendar days

Prospective Contractors should have at least five (5) years proven experience and excellent track record as prime contractor in Airfield Ground Lighting System (particularly Taxiway Guidance Signages Project) and the value of prospective contractor's largest single contract completed must be equivalent to Php 20M. The prospective contractors shall fully comply with all the requirements and criteria stated in the Application for Eligibility / Eligibility Forms and in the Instructions to Applicants FOR Eligibility to Bid for the subject Project.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance from September 30 to October 04, 2002 upon submission of proofs (two certificates of completion and acceptance of previous experiences on Taxiway Guidance Signages Projects with similar volume for the last five years) and a Letter of Intent addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Award Committee, and payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One thousand (Php 1,000.00) at the Office of the BAC Chairman, AOG Bldg. #2125, CSEZ, Clark Field, Pampanga . Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms shall be submitted on or before **4:00 PM of October 11, 2002** at the address mentioned above.

All particulars relative to the eligibility of bidders, bid evaluation and determination of lowest calculated responsive bids and award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions and Implementing Rules and Regulations of E.O #40 and PD 1594 as amended.

Eligible Contractor (s) shall be notified in writing and only those who had been pre-qualified by CDC for the subject project may secure proposal / bid documents, specifications and Terms of Reference for the subject Project upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php 10,000.00**. Submission and opening of bids will be announced later.

CDC reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and proposals, to waive any defect or required formality therein, and to accept such proposal / offer and to award the Project to the proponent whose proposal / bid is considered as the lowest calculated responsive bid and most advantageous to the government nor it does guarantee that an award shall be made.

Should Bidders need any further information or clarification regarding the subject Project, bidders may inquire with Engr. Ruel T. Angeles of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) at tel. No. 045-5992523.

(Sgd) **Mr. Douglas B. Yballe**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 26 & Oct. 3, 2002)

Office of the President
Republic of the Philippines
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Clark Special Economic Zone

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Clark Development Corporation (CDC) through its Bids and Award Committee invites interested life insurance companies to apply for eligibility and bid for the Annual Group Life Insurance Coverage with Accidental Death and Disablement and Total Permanent Disability Riders for its officers and regular employees.

The Terms of Reference for the undertaking shall be available on September 26 to October 9, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the PBAC Chairman Office, 1st Floor, Bldg. 2125, E. Quirino St., Clark Field, Pampanga upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 in cash.

A pre-bid conference will be held on October 15, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at the AOG Conference Room, Bldg. 2125 E. Quirino St., Clark Special Economic Zone, Clarkfield, Pampanga. Attendance to the Pre-Bid conference is a requirement for pre-qualification.

The approved budget for the bidding of the Group Life Insurance Plan Coverage for CDC officers and regular employees is One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P 1,750,000.00).

CDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formally, informally and/or defect and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

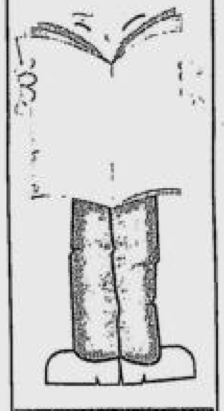
All inquiries and letter shall be addressed to:

PBAC Services Chairman
Clark Development Corporation
AOG Building 2125, E. Quirino St.,
Clarkfield, Pampanga

(Sgd.) **DOUGLAS B. YBALLE**
Chairman
Pre-qualification, Bids and Award Committee - Services

(PDI–Sept. 26 & Oct. 3, 2002)

The best companies need the best people.



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Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
(NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION)
Lungsod ng Quezon

INVITATION TO BID

BID NO. CMIPPI-S-1-(R)

Supply and Delivery of One (1) unit Stake Truck, 8 Tons Capacity with 4 Ton Crane

The Philippine Government has obtained a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the prosecution of the Casecnan Multi Purpose Irrigation Power Project. Part of the Loan shall be used to procure eligible expenditures as follows:

Qty	Unit	Description
1	Unit	Stake Truck, 8 Tons Capacity with 4 Ton Crane

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as the Implementing Agency of the Project, invites eligible bidders to participate in the tender. Interested bidders may obtain eligibility requirements and bid documents from **30 September** to **11 October 2002** at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. 921-3906 and 922-4768 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

Bids must be delivered and shall be publicly opened on **October 29, 2002**, 2:00 PM at the same venue.

All bids must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to at least 2% of the total bid price in the form of certified check, bank draft, standby letter of credit or bank guarantee from a reputable bank.

NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure, to waive any or all informalities and to award such bids to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MARCELINO V. TUGAOEN, JR.**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 26 & Oct. 4, 2002)

ERRATUM

In the Invitation to Bid (Bid No. LCPIS-032-02) of the National Irrigation Administration which came out in this newspaper on September 24, 2002 the bidding should have been for the supply, delivery and installation of one-unit industrial diesel engine and four units RAGD. The word installation was inadvertently left out. Our apologies for the error.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
OFFICE OF THE LIQUIDATOR

INVITATION TO BID

SEALED BIDS will be accepted by the undersigned LIQUIDATOR or his duly authorized representative for the immediate sale for Cash on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis the following real property owned by PARAMOUNT FINANCE CORPORATION (under liquidation pursuant to Sec. 29 of R.A. 265, as amended) with office at Rm. 408, 4th Floor, Manila Bank Building, 6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Tel. Nos. 815-3986; 815-4028:

Item No.	Area/Description/TCT No.	Location	Minimum Bid
1	3,500 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-41001	Trinidad Homes Manggahan, Pasig City	P 8,750,000.00
2	2,356 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-372052	13th St., New Manila Quezon City	18,928,000.00
3	10,000 sq.m. agr. lot TCT No. T-32.630 (M)	Sitio Likao-Likao, Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte Bulacan	4,000,000.00
4	850 50 sq.m. comml. lot TCT No. T-4803	J. de Veyra St. Cebu Port Center, Cebu City	12,757,500.00
5	12,900 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-16931	Interior Evangelista Street, Santolan, Pasig City	13,545,000.00
6	180 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-151159	Lot 2 Blk. 16 Aurora Heights Subd. San Pedro, Laguna	630,000.00
7	2,694 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-65450	La Huerta, San Antonio Parañaque City	2,693,400.00
8	2,360 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-32152	La Huerta, San Antonio Parañaque City	2,596,000.00
9	277 sq.m. res. lot TCT No. T-55987	Lot 15 Blk. 2 6th St., Riverside Mills Subd. Rosario, Pasig City	1,662,000.00
10	141.20 sq.m. res. lot with improvement TCT No. T-296329	No. 34 Bansalangin St. Veterans Village, Quezon City	1,820,000.00

Prospective bidders may see the description of said real property at the above indicated address where Bid Forms, Conditions of the Bid and other particulars may likewise be obtained during regular working hours.

All bids must be submitted on or before 2:00 PM of **October 17, 2002** at the 10th Floor, Multi-Storey Building, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, A. Mabini Street, Manila. Sealed bids will be publicly opened by the Committee on Bids during the bidding date in the presence of attending bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

(Sgd.) **ALBERTO V. REYES**
Liquidator

(PDI – Sept. 26, Oct. 5 & 13, 2002)

CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Aparri, Cagayan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. CAGELCO II is inviting all interested dealers to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply of Transformers with the following specification and rating:

TRANSFORMER, Conventional, Pole type, Oil immersed, Single Phase, Voltage 7620/240, 60HZ Frequency, Surplus, Reconditioned, Original Winding

10 KVA, 1 bushing	-	65 units
10 KVA, 2 bushing/bankable	-	15 units
15 KVA, 1 bushing	-	38 units
15 KVA, 2 bushing/bankable	-	12 units
25 KVA, 1 bushing	-	15 units
25 KVA, 2 bushing/bankable	-	6 units

Efficiency:

Rating	Core Loss	Winding Loss	Total	Efficiency (%)
10 KVA	48	180	228	97.72
15 KVA	61	215	276	98.16
25 KVA	87	295	382	98.47

B. Application for prequalification must be submitted to the PBAC Chairman, Mrs. BLANDINA Y. MADAMBA or may be faxed to our telefax no. (078) 822-8900 together with the following requirements: a) BIR-VAT Certificate b) Business Permit c) Business Registration d) Latest ITR e) Company Profile f) List of Clients for a period of 3 years, if applicable.

C. Deadline for submission - October 10, 2002

D. CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid, waive any defect or informality therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the cooperative.

E. Pre-conference and Bidding schedules shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.

F. Additional information may be furnished upon request.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI – Sept. 26 & Oct. 3, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Municipality of Malitbog

OFFICE OF THE PBAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Malitbog, Bukidnon, through the Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) at least Medium A for Roads, to apply for the pre-qualification / eligibility screening and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the DAR-ADB Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP) as follows:

	Contract Name / Location of Project	Approved Budget For Contract works	Calendar Days (Duration)
1.	Rehabilitation of Kiabo Proper-Mindagat Proper Farm - to - Market Road 6.3 kilometers	P9,191,864.00	148 CD

Interested Contractors legally owning desirable heavy equipments such as bulldozer, grader, road roller, shall submit their letter of intent and duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statement (Pre-C) to the PBAC Chairman, LGU, Malitbog, Bukidnon on or before **October 9, 2002**. eligibility screening shall be held on **October 15, 2002** at 9:00 a.m., New Municipal Hall, Malitbog, Bukidnon.

Pre-bid Conference will be on **October 22, 2002** at Municipal Conference Hall, Malitbog, Bukidnon.

Bid documents will be available to pre-qualified bidders from **October 15, 2002** to **October 22, 2002** at the Municipal Engineer's Office, Municipal Hall upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000.00.

Submission of bid proposal in two sealed envelopes to the PBAC Chairman and Opening of Bids will be on **November 14, 2002, 9:00-10:00 A.M.** at the Municipal Conference Hall.

Bids with submitted bid prices that are higher than the approved budget for the contract under bidding shall be rejected outright.

All particulars relative to Pre-qualification Eligibility, Bid Security, Performance Bond Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the Provisions of P.D. 1594 as amended on August 2000 and implementing Rules and Regulation.

The Municipal Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) OSMUNDO N. DELA ROSA
Municipal Mayor / PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 25, 28 & Oct. 1, 2002)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
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Carmelita Jovita Yatco San Diego

Joined her Creator on September 25, 2002
at the age of 67.

Her loving husband
Benjamin

Children, children-in-law and grandchildren

Celle and **Jerry del Rosario**
Micko and **Carla**

Jobby and **Liza San Diego**
Jolo and **Alia**

Grace and **Jojo Ladaban**
Jeb and **Bea**

Joy and **Ferdie Sampol**
Mikee (†) and **Migi**

Brother and sister-in-law
Tony and **Dina Yatco**

Relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at
White Plains Chapel
Nathan Street, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Paraiso Memorial Park, San Mateo, Rizal
Saturday, September 28, 2002 after the 9:00 AM Mass.

Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

Eufrocina "Ising" Velasco Eco

Peacefully joined her Creator
on Monday, September 23, 2002
at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children **Severo** and **Agnes**, **Edencio Jr.** and **Annabelle;** grandchildren **Edencio Quincy III** and **Precy, Jeremiah** and **Ian Paul**; great granddaughters **May-may** and **Lina**; Brothers and Sisters and In-laws, **Constancio Velasco, Jose** and **Felicidad Velasco, Asuncion** and **Benito Vivar**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request all pious readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at Bahay Ugnayan, Samson Vigil Spaces, 145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 28, 2002 at Imus Cemetery, Imus, Cavite after the 1:30 p.m. Mass.

FE ESPERANZA REYES VDA. GOMEZ

01 July 1906 - 23 September 2002, 96 years old
of CAMILING and GERONA, TARLAC and Quezon City
(Widow of the late **GETULIO S. GOMEZ**)

Her bereaved children **EDGARDO, OSCAR** and **NARCISA, RODOLFO** and **KATHLEEN**, and **OFELIA (PEPS)**: grandchildren and great grandchildren; dear relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary Parish at West Triangle, Quezon City. Interment will follow after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on 27 September 2002.

ARCH. JOSE S. PARDO SR.

Director - Special Steel Products, Inc.
Director - Metal Improvement Inc.
Former Dean of the College of Architecture of
University of Santo Tomas

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 25, 2002
at the age of 86.

His loving wife **GERTRUDES**; children **TITO & ARO, BOY & OLLIE, DINKY & DOLLY, ELI & VEEGEE, JUN & ANGELI**; grandchildren **JOSEPH & MARION, BAMBI, MIGUEL, ELA, DEEPEE, NOEL, EARLE & ELMER**; and great grandchild **GABE**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Bonifacio Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (Inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be announced at a later date.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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12 G. Araneta Avenue Quezon City Tels 715-1025. 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels 747-8599. 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A B Fernandez Ave. Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels (0785) 522-3451. 522-2128. (0917) 434-8976
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels 346-2543. 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills Lahug Cebu City. Tels 231-0721. 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos. Davao City. Tels (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683. 781-3705. 781-3688. 413-9400. 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3005; (047) 611-1086. (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road. Makati City. Tel 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave cor Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102: 741-5125. 741-5133. Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels 2812963. 2813034. 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P Burgos St., Lourdes Sur. Angeles City
Tels (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City. Tels 646-1725; 646-1730
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HILDA MERIDA REFUERZO

of Bobon, Northern Samar

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 23, 2002 at the age of 64.

Her loving husband, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends request for your prayers.

Her body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (Inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 28, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 AM Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

JULIAN REYES MENDOZA

of San Rafael, Bulacan, Baliuag, Bulacan
and Glendale, California

December 22, 1925 - September 21, 2002

Peacefully died in the Grace of our Lord
in Glendale, California.

His loving wife Edenflor; children Marilou & Abet, Rusty & Rose, Marivic, Roland & Debra and Maritess; grandchildren Tatum, Katrina, Mark Paolo and John Patrick; sister Carmelita; relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Glendale Forrest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California.

Funeral Mass will be held on September 27, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. at Incarnation Catholic Church, Glendale, California. Cremation will be on September 30, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. at Glendale Forrest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California.

ANTONIO DE LA VEGA

November 22, 1920 - September 24, 2002

His loving wife **PILAR**, children, spouses and grandchildren:

Antonio and **Cindy Boulton**	**Anton, Paolo** and **Bianca**
Maria Luisa and **Mario P. Villamor**	**Beatriz Amparo,** **Mario Antonio, Jr.** and **Maria Isabel Pilar**
Margarita and **Noel de Ocampo**	**Nicholas** and **Cristina**
Pilar and **Augusto Mendoza**	**Patricia**
Rosario and **Edwin Villamayor**	
Enrique and **Maria Cristina Lanuza**	**Margarita** and **Enrique**

his sister **Natividad V. Jaraiz**; brother, in-law **Manuel** and **Elvira Vallejo**; nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills EAST, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 28, 2002 in La Loma Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in Santuario de San Jose.

Benjamin G. Velasquez

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 25, 2002 at the age of 80.

His beloved wife **Adelaida**; children **Arsenia & Armando, Victoria & Manuel, William & Judith, Benjamin Jr. & Estelita, Alexander & Lehiyan, Richard & Margaret**; grandchildren, sisters & brothers, nephews & nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Holy Gardens Memorial Park Chapel at Brgy. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal from September 25, 2002 to September 28, 2002.

Interment will take place on September 28, 2002 at Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Taytay, Rizal after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

DIOMEDES DAROY TEJADA

Tangalan, Aklan

August 16, 1923 - September 24, 2002

His wife **Veronica**; children **Nema Tarantan, Steve** and **Bella Tarantan, Arlene** and **Carl Adams, Dan** and **Annie, Diove** and **Zosimo Pabua, Mildred**; sister **Desamparados Tirol**; brother **Virgilio**; grandchildren and other relatives thank God for his life and request the readers to join them in prayers.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 28, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special PROJECT
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2002

THE DRIVE FOR ALL REASONS

Aggie Pinili, Account Manager
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph
Aries Espinosa, Editor

Taking on the urban jungle: Driving tips for the modern-day Jane

THE KEY to surviving the urban jungle is the ability to swiftly get from one place to another. This entails conquering the traffic situation, knowing the highways and byways, and honing one's driving and navigation skills. And today's female urbanite is able to do all these by being independent and on the go.

However, like any jungle, this one also has a number of predators on the prowl, and their favorite prey is the female urbanite in solo flight. This is not only because they are deemed to be more vulnerable but also because many women lack awareness when it comes to their own safety.

There are a number of crimes against women. One may be conned, robbed, raped or worse, killed. Based on the number of reported cases in the Philippines in 1999, an average of 9 women were raped daily. A woman behind the wheel may be perceived as a juicy prey because she has an extra asset—an automobile.

Nowadays, it is always better to be safe than sorry. One of the most effective ways of evading the predators when driving is by being incognito. That means transforming your car into a protective shell. What is commonly deemed as a car accessory is actually essential to your very survival: the car tint.

A tinted car will enable you to drive around the metropolis unrecognized. Remember that for as long as the predators do not see what is inside the car, it would be of less interest to them. The best camouflage available today is the 3M Scotchtint Automotive Film not just because it is proven to hold its color but also because it can protect the user against other harmful elements like UV rays, sun glare and shattered glass. It also comes in different shades to cater to your preference.

Here are other important tips for women who take the concrete jungle when driving:

- Learn basic car care and maintenance. It is essential that you know how to change a flat tire, jumpstart the battery, push-start the car, check and change the oil, add water and coolant to the radiator and add windshield wiper fluid. It is important to be prepared for any scenario. When one is unprepared and helpless on the road, urban predators will be drawn to you like moths to flame. However, be wary when car trouble strikes you at night.
- Keep an emergency kit, not just a first-aid kit but one that has the following: a toolbox (acquaint yourself to the function and use of each tool); flashers and emergency lights (with extra batteries); a gallon of water; a fully functional car charger (eliminator) for your mobile phone; a map, and; rain gear.
- Plan your route and mark "safe zones". This is important not only in planning long road trips but also for your daily routes. Safe zones are well-lighted areas where there are people who can help you in case of an emergency. These could be 24-hour service stations or food stops down the road. These are the first places you should go to when having mechanical difficulties with your car or when you think you're being followed. There is safety in numbers. One of the ways of survival is to be in a herd, for this lessens the possibility of being pounced on. On either long or late-night trips, give someone your estimated time of arrival. This way, someone else will be aware that you are on the road and alerted when you are off schedule.
- Lock the doors at all times. Lock the doors once you are out of your car and lock them as soon as you enter the car. Be sure that you already have your keys on hand when approaching the car. A lot could happen during the time you're fumbling for your keys. Check the backseat before entering your car and locking the doors. Better yet, have an alarm system installed.
- Choose your parking well. This is important, especially when it is already dark outside. Find a space near the attendant or security guard of the parking lot. Make sure that this is a well-lighted area. When there is a suspicious looking person or vehicle beside your car, do not approach your car alone. Ask an attendant or security guard to escort you to your car. If there is a person inside the car parked next to yours, enter your car from a door where you can see him/her at all times. This means you may have to enter your car from the passenger door.
- Put your safety first. Do not take shortcuts in unfamiliar and secluded areas, especially at night. When you have a flat tire in such an area, risk ruining your tires and drive to the nearest service station or safe zone. To be alone in your car at night should be your last option. If you think you are being followed, do not go home. You will be showing them precisely where you live. Go to a nearby police station or safe zone where there are lots of people.

Remember, no one can save you but yourself. For more information on 3M Scotchtint Automotive Film, call 3M Philippines at 813-3781 to 95.

NISSAN SERENA Q-RV

Comtrac seats increase Nissan Serena Q-RV's versatility

Nissan's exceptionally functional Serena Q-RV easily become the darling of the recreational vehicle set because of its luxurious appointments, roomy interior, flexible seating and remarkable performance. Its' versatility is now enhanced with the availability of the new ComTrac Type II seats.

ComTrac is the trademark name Nissan gives the choice of seats available in the Serena Q-RV. The standard benches found in every Serena are known as ComTrac Type I. These original-equipment seats were never marketed under the trade name because they come as standard equipment. The seats can fold front, recline, fold back and flat and slide on a floor-mounted rail in the Q-RV.

The result is an almost infinite variety of seating (and sleeping) possibilities. In the normal arrangement, the Q-RV can seat ten people comfortably. The rearmost jump seats can be removed and reinstalled easily . Fold the first bench to create an office desk or a picnic table, whichever the case may be. Push forward one or more benches to create an immense open area enough for several balikbayan boxes, piles of suitcases, surfboards, mountain bikes and whatever else can fit through the spacious doors. Face the seats toward each other to enable a mobile conference. Install it back-to-back for a totally different seating sensation.

Finally, fold the seats flat to create the largest mobile bed for those really long trips. With the introduction of ComTrac Type II seats, Nissan Serena Q-RV owners can enjoy individualized seating without compromising the versatility of its' flexible seating. The Type II seats are similar to the captains seats found in other luxury Nissan vehicles. Providing the same level of comfort but with a more personal touch to them, ComTrac Type II seats are now offered at a special P30,000 price, through the "Create Your Own" Q-RV promo. That's a huge 50% discount off suggested retail prices.

Nissan Serena Q-RV owners are encouraged to expand their creativity to enhance their vehicle's versatility with the ComTrac Type II seats. Other accessories like keyless and alarm systems, roof rack, bumper guards, body graphic and cooler box are also available at unbelievably low prices at the Nissan dealer nearest you.

PERSONALIZE YOUR OWN NISSAN SERENA Q-RV WITH THESE COOL **ACCESSORIES**

ACCESSORIES	RETAIL PRICE	PROMO PRICE	SAVINGS
COMTRAC™ SEATS	60,000	**30,000**	**50%**
KEYLESS+ALARM SYSTEM	5,000	**4,250**	15%
COOLER BOX	16,900	**15,210**	10%
FRONT & REAR BULLBAR	15,000	**13,500**	10%
BODY GRAPHIC	3,500	**3,150**	10%
ROOF RACK	13,200	**11,880**	10%

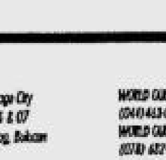
CREATE YOUR OWN!
NISSAN
SERENA

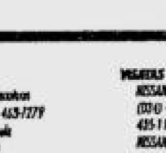
Nissan dealers thank Serena Q-RV owners for making it one of the fastest-selling recreational vehicles in the market today. Now we've made it more personal, too. Unique and versatile personalized accessories including genuine ComTrac seats designed specifically for the Q-RV, available at special rates for a limited time only. No other recreational vehicle gives this much luxury, comfort, power and now, expression, the way the Nissan Serena Q-RV does.

Promo duration is September 18-30, 2002 only

NOW AVAILABLE! NEW
ComTrac TYPE II
SEATS AT 50% DISCOUNT, NOW ONLY
P30,000

HERE'S WHAT MAKES THE NISSAN SERENA Q-RV ONE OF THE BESTSELLERS:


Flexible seating so you can manage your space just the way you like it.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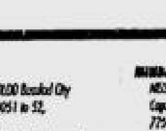
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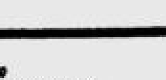
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NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES

*Available on the Nissan Serena Q-RV R Limited only (model shown) • Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3786 Series of 2002

Isuzu Challenge goes to Mexico, Guatemala

NOT KNOWN to many is the fact that Isuzu Motors of Japan has been running a cause-oriented for five straight years now. Called Isuzu Challenge, the event is an annual international adventure expedition which not only showcases the durability and performance of Isuzu vehicles, but also raises funds to help rehabilitate ecological spots around the globe.

While other automakers throw away inordinate sums of money to join various forms of motorsports only to earn bragging rights, Isuzu has chosen to stage its own grueling event with the foremost objective of contributing to the welfare of the environment.

Isuzu Challenge is on its fifth year and continues to provide support for the resolution of environmental issues. The event took the Namibia-Botswana route in its maiden year in 1998, Vietnam-Laos in 1999, Patagonia in 2000, and the Indian Himalayas in 2001. In November this year, the expedition will trek through Mexico and Guatemala.

Isuzu Challenge will join in the struggle against illegal deforestation and tree theft that exploits the largely isolated areas of the forest. Mexico was chosen because this region is in danger of deforestation, which can result in the damage to the area's delicate ecological balance. The expedition team will contribute cellular and satellite systems to aid forest rangers and local authorities in searching, locating, and preventing tree theft in the region.

Isuzu Challenge 2002 will follow one of the most important ancient cultures of America: the Maya culture. This culture thrived and controlled Central America during the first millennium AD. Toward the end of that millennium, it began to disappear while leaving behind impressive and fascinating sites. The expedition has thus been named "Ruta Maya."

The vehicles will be shipped from Israel to Mexico. The expedition will then begin in the Chiapas regionof Mexico, at San Cristobal in the Sierra Madre Mountains. From there, it will descend across the largest riverbed, Usumachinta, by way of the rainforests, and encounter some of the many outstanding Mayan culture sites. It will then cross into Guatemala through the Montebello Lakes and climb the high mountain ridge of Cuchumatanes.

The last part of the expedition will pass through northeast Guatemala. Here, the emphasis will be on the huge jungle of Peten County. The final part of the expedition will be in Tikal, the largest and most beautiful of all Maya sites.

The Isuzu vehicles that will be used in the expedition include 3.0-liter turbodiesel Troopers, 3.2-liter V6 Rodeos, and 3.1-liter turbodiesel pick-ups. These vehicles will be fitted with suspension system reinforcement as recommended by 4x4 driving expert Itzik Mini, the technical manager of the expedition. They will also be equipped with many 4x4 accessories like Warn 9000 winches, TJM bull bars, snorkels, and halogen lamps; Alfa rear canopies and fiberglass spoilers; Gatos underbody protection; and Yokohama 235/85 R16 tires.

Isuzu Challenge 2002 is being organized by Geographical Tours, Israel's travel company that opens the doors to unique travel experiences to all corners of the globe, and Universal Motors Israel, the exclusive distributor of General Motors vehicles in Israel. It is sponsored by ACDelco, Maariv newspaper, Yokohama, Ituran vehicle security systems, and The Center for Educational Technology.

SIGNING CEREMONIES
HOURLY UNION CBA
(2002-2005)
Hon. R

FOR HAVING successfully reached the conclusion of its CBA negotiations, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) management and officers of the Chrysler Philippines Labor Union held their signing ceremonies Sept. 13 at the MMPC grounds. Shown are MMPC president and chief executive officer Teruhiko Shibata (left) shaking hands with CPLU president Francisco Mero, while officers of MMPC management and labor union look on. An agreement that will last until August 2005, this year's CBA negotiations is the 13th for MMPC and was completed after 13 meetings in a span of two months. MMPC has already been recognized by the DTI's Center for Labor Relations Assistance and the Sikap-Gawa Industrial Peace Award for maintaining harmonious labor-management relations in its plant and its commitment in creating the best possible working environment for its workers.

The heat continues amid rains

What started as a hot and humid day ended in a downpour! Luckily, the rain started just after all the participants of the 3rd round of the City Media Challenge finished their 2nd and final heat for the day.

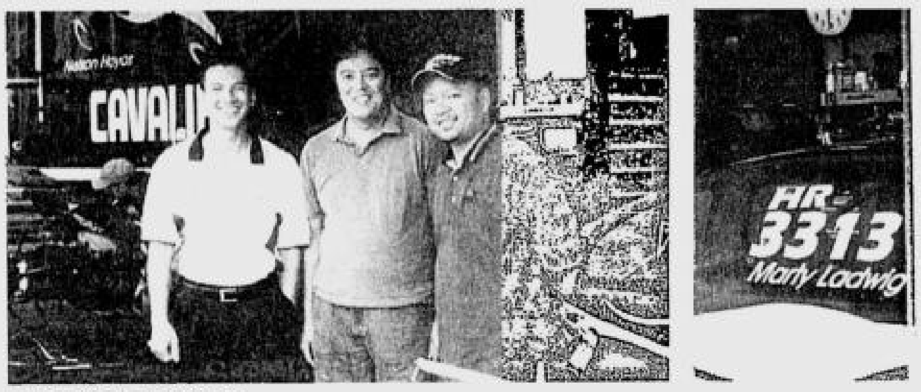
Best time of the day was clocked by Ferdie Baja with his time of 1:14.15, followed closely by Dodjie Aguila's 1:14.41 and Bernard de Lara's 1:15.31, adding 30, 27 and 24 championship points to their totals, respectively.

Team Satin Silver retained its lead in the overall standings, racking up another 30 championship points by finishing in 1st place with a team time of 3 minutes, 49.76 seconds. Finishing second for the round and in the overall standings was team Clover Green (3:51.15). Rounding up the podium finishers was team Passion Orange (3:52.81).

The fifth season of the City Media Challenge is presented by Honda Cars Philippines. Official fuel is Caltex Vortex while the official lubricant is Caltex Havoline. The official tires are courtesy of Michelin through its distributor, Tiarra Commercial and Industrial Corp. Other sponsors include Nodalo's Trading and Aitech.

The City Media Challenge is organized by ADBM Resources, in partnership with Activity Asia Association and Roadwise Motoring School.

The last round for this season is slated to run on Oct. 12. For inquiries, call 813-2682.



RACING PINOYS

Butch T. Inducil (center), president and CEO of ATI Group Inc., is flanked by GM Racing Team members Marty Ludwig (left) and Myles Bautista, president of Team Rev Hard, North Hollywood, California. Inducil, who is also the driving force behind ATI Racing, was in the United States recently for some exploratory talks for a possible merger with Team Rev Hard. Composed mainly of Fil-Americans, GM Racing/Rev hard is one of the top contenders in the US import racing scene. Inducil toured with the team as an observer and technical consultant.

Pregnant crash dummy developed

THESE days, everyone on board a car is protected by comprehensive safety systems. Everyone—except the unborn child. Researchers still know very little about what happens to fetuses during car accidents.

To shed more light on this area, Volvo Car Corp. has developed the world's first official computer model of a pregnant crash dummy.

"Now we've covered the whole life cycle," says Camilla Palmertz, a biomechanical engineer at the Volvo Cars Safety Center. "One big advantage is that both mother and baby can be scaled up or down to the size we want to study."

This virtual crash dummy is a woman at a late stage of her pregnancy, since that is when the unborn baby is at greatest risk during an accident. The basic design had been completed by January. Since then much time has been devoted to refining the model.

"Now it's finished and we've started running simulated front-end impact tests on it."

The purpose of the tests is to study how the virtual mother-to-be and her unborn baby are affected by the seat belt and airbag in simulated accidents. The computer model makes it possible to study—in great detail—how the belt moves, the influence of belt and airbag on the uterus, placenta and fetus, and how the fetus moves in relation to the mother's body. Among other things, the model can also be used to test new designs in seat belts and other safety systems.

"I'm certain that there's room for further development of the three-point belt, to make it more comfortable and to provide even better protection," says Palmertz.

Today many pregnant women wonder whether the seat belt could harm their unborn baby if they are involved in a car accident. Researchers all agree, however, in recommending that they should always wear their seat belt.

"But it's important to wear it in the right way. It should be between the breasts and as low as possible over the hips. The lap section of the belt mustn't be allowed to ride up in front of the woman's tummy," says Palmertz. "That could harm the baby."

In an accident, the pregnant woman's thorax and pelvis are both restrained by the belt, but her abdomen is free to move in the direction determined by the particular forces arising from the impact. Because the fetus is floating free inside her, injuries tend to fall into two main types. The more common of the two is that the placenta becomes either partially or completely detached, which means that the baby cannot get enough oxygen. The rarer scenario is for the head of the baby to be injured if it hits one of the bones of the mother's pelvis.

"We think that the placenta may become detached because, while the uterus is relatively elastic and can therefore change shape, the placenta is not equally resilient under acceleration," Palmertz explains. "We think so, but we don't know yet. That's why this model is so important. We have to find out more to be able to protect the fetus in the best possible way."

Viking Cars is the official dealer of Volvo Cars in the Philippines. For more information, call 893-6621 to 22.

> To shed more light on this area, Volvo Car Corp. has developed the world's first official computer model of a pregnant crash dummy

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30%	P259,500	53,239	36,583	29,420	20,897	16,673	14,218
40%	P346,000	45,378	31,181	25,061	17,815	14,215	12,118
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In the exclusive Night Hawk Black color, the Civic RS dons an impressive honeycomb front grille. Wrap-around skirts in matte black finish, body color rear license plate garnish and bonnet molding, rear RS emblem and 15" silver painted alloy wheels accentuates the Civic's sportiness and youthful appeal.

Inside, an all-new Kenwood audio system enhances the Civic's sportiness with a 2-din audio with an in-dash CD player. The head unit also features a backlit LCD that changes pre-set or customized color display. The steering wheel and hand brake lever come in leather, complementing the new sporty seat design that boasts of a neoteric race-car inspired headrest.

Powering the Civic RS is the revolutionary 3-stage VTEC, 1.6 liter engine in manual transmission. The 3-stage VTEC breakthrough technology offer excellent power at a maximum of 130 ps at 6,600 rpm yet achieving impressive fuel economy in its class.

Its line-up of standard safety features include dual SRS airbags, Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) with Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD). The Civic RS is also equipped with seat belt Pretensioner and Load Limiter.

The 7th generation Civic has been given numerous awards and recognition with its pioneering spacious flat rear floor and technologically advanced 3-stage VTEC engine and safety features, truly a product of Honda's ingenuity and innovation.

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'TOYOTA CLASSICS - A WORLD OF HARMONY'

Toyota to sponsor 13th Annual Classical Concert Tour in Asia

TOKYO—Toyota Motor Corp. (TMC) is proud to present to classical music fans throughout Asia the artistic talent of the Spanish Cadaques Orchestra, as a part of this year's Toyota Classics—A World of Harmony.

This year's event—the 13th since TMC began sponsorship in 1990—will take place from Oct. 7 to 30 and span a record 11 cities, including Jakarta, Bangkok, Tianjin and Manila. Conducted in cooperation with Toyota distributors in Asia, the tour will contribute to the development of musical culture by bringing exceptional classic music to the people of Asia. Proceeds from each concert will be donated to local charities.

The Philippine leg of the Toyota Classics is scheduled on Oct. 25 at the Meralco Theatre in Ortigas, Pasig City. This year, Toyota is dedicating all proceeds of the concert to the Tabang Mindanaw III mission, which aims to give humanitarian assistance to the displaced Filipinos from Malaysia.

Since the Cadaques Orchestra was founded in 1988, it has participated in major Spanish music festivals, including the renowned Peralada International Music Festival. The orchestra is made up of the finest musicians from all over Europe, and is led by principal conductor Gianandrea Noseda and principal guest conductor Sir Neville Marriner.

Conducting the performance of this concert tour will be Philippe Entremont, a French pianist and conductor. He has won prestigious recognition as a pianist, taking first place at the Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud Piano Competition, and has extensive experience conducting many of the world's finest orchestras.

Highly acclaimed Spanish guitarist José María Gallardo del Rey will accompany the orchestra.

World-class Filipino tenor Leodigario del Rosario will also be performing during the Toyota Classics' Manila concert. With an Artist Diploma in Vocal Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music, he is a recipient of numerous awards and recognition for his outstanding performance in opera productions and concerts.

Classical melodies to be performed during the tour will focus primarily on pieces written by Spanish composers, such as J. Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez, and I. Albéniz's Triana from "Iberia". Additionally, the orchestra will perform pieces with local artists from each country to encourage international exchange through music.

This year, Toyota is dedicating all proceeds of the concert to the Tabang Mindanaw III mission, which aims to give humanitarian assistance to the displaced Filipinos from Malaysia

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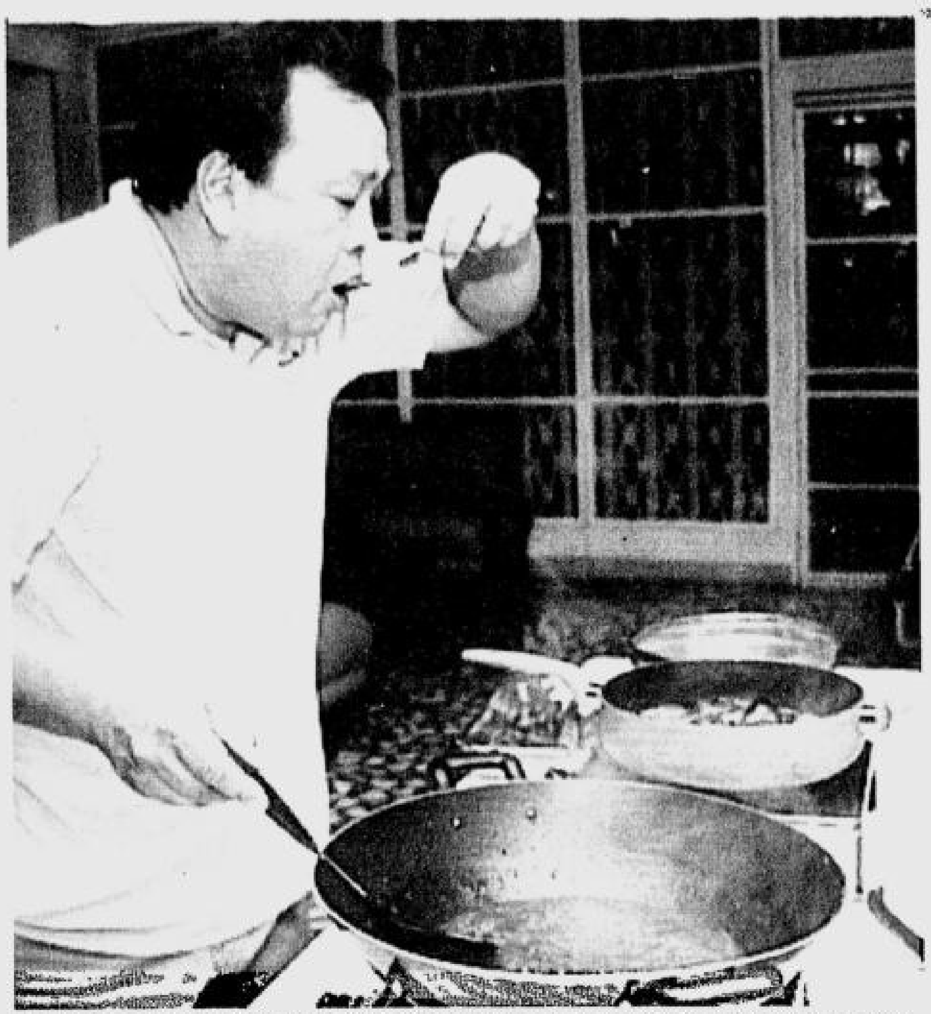
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Tasters



BOYET Gonzales imbibed the intricacies of cooking just by watching his mother in the kitchen.

The kitchen is now in session

House majority whip Neptali Gonzales Jr. cooks his way to a woman's heart, not to mention the hearts of his colleagues in Congress

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

FROM THE HALLOWED halls of Congress to his humble kitchen in Mandaluyong City, Rep. Neptali Gonzales Jr. calls the shots. In the same manner that he makes the law, mulls over it and passes it, he steams the crab, sautées the pork and simmers the beef to perfection.

Yes, your majority floor leader cooks—and he cooks truly well.

He learned from his mother, Candida Medina Gonzales, who raised the Gonzales children to be accustomed to the ways of the kitchen.

PRIVATE SPECIALTY

"My mother is a good cook," says Gonzales, aka Boyet among family and friends. "As a young man, I would accompany her to the market and would help out, together with my other siblings (four of them), in the kitchen. I enjoyed watching her whip up the family meal. In a way, I imbibed the intricacies of cooking just by watching her."

Having learned while young, it's no surprise that Gonzales can cook *kare-kare*, *mechado*, *kaldereta*, *bopis*, *paksiw*, *nilaga* and *adobo* without much ado, but with much gusto. He doesn't flinch at the thought of putting in long hours in the kitchen, simmering the beef or roasting the chicken. In fact, he gets pumped up every time he cooks.

Therapy

"Cooking has been my therapy," he confides. "It takes my mind away from the problems of the country and family. That's why I love cooking in big volumes."

You read it right. The congressman always

THE KITCHEN/ p.C2

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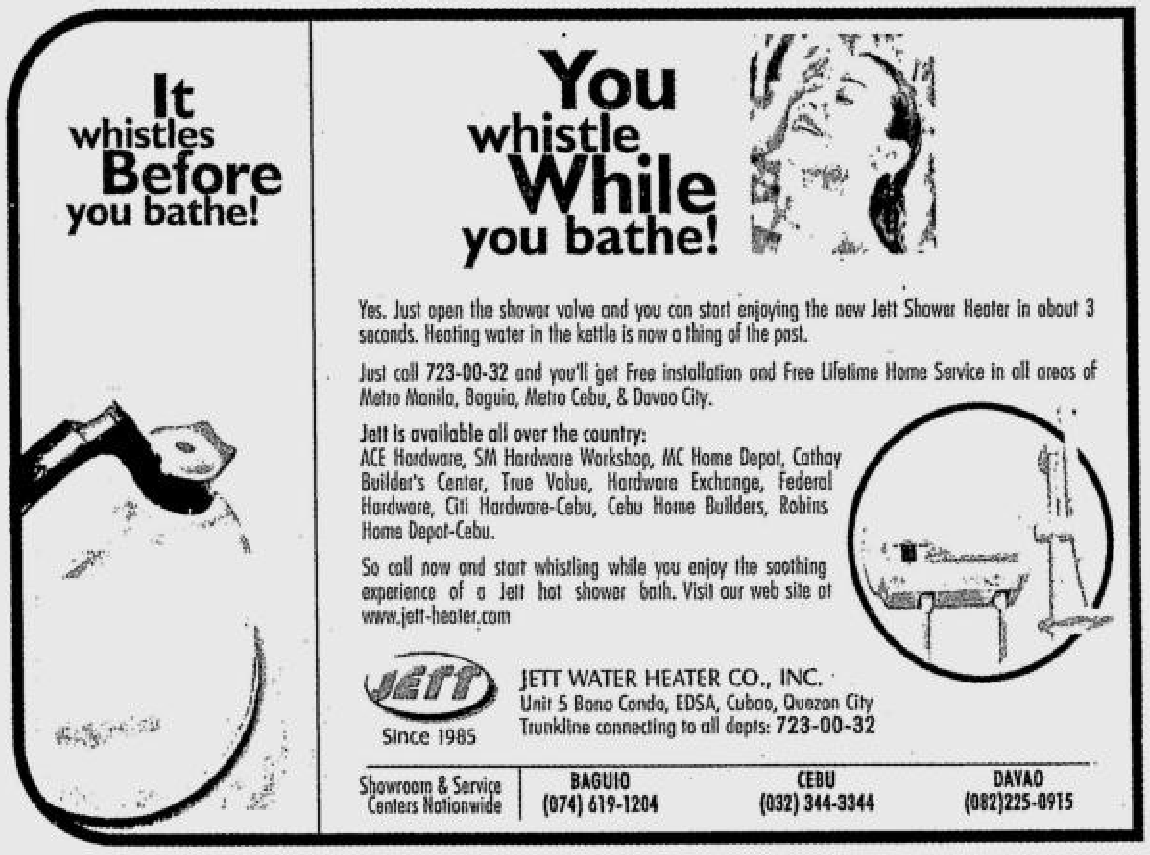

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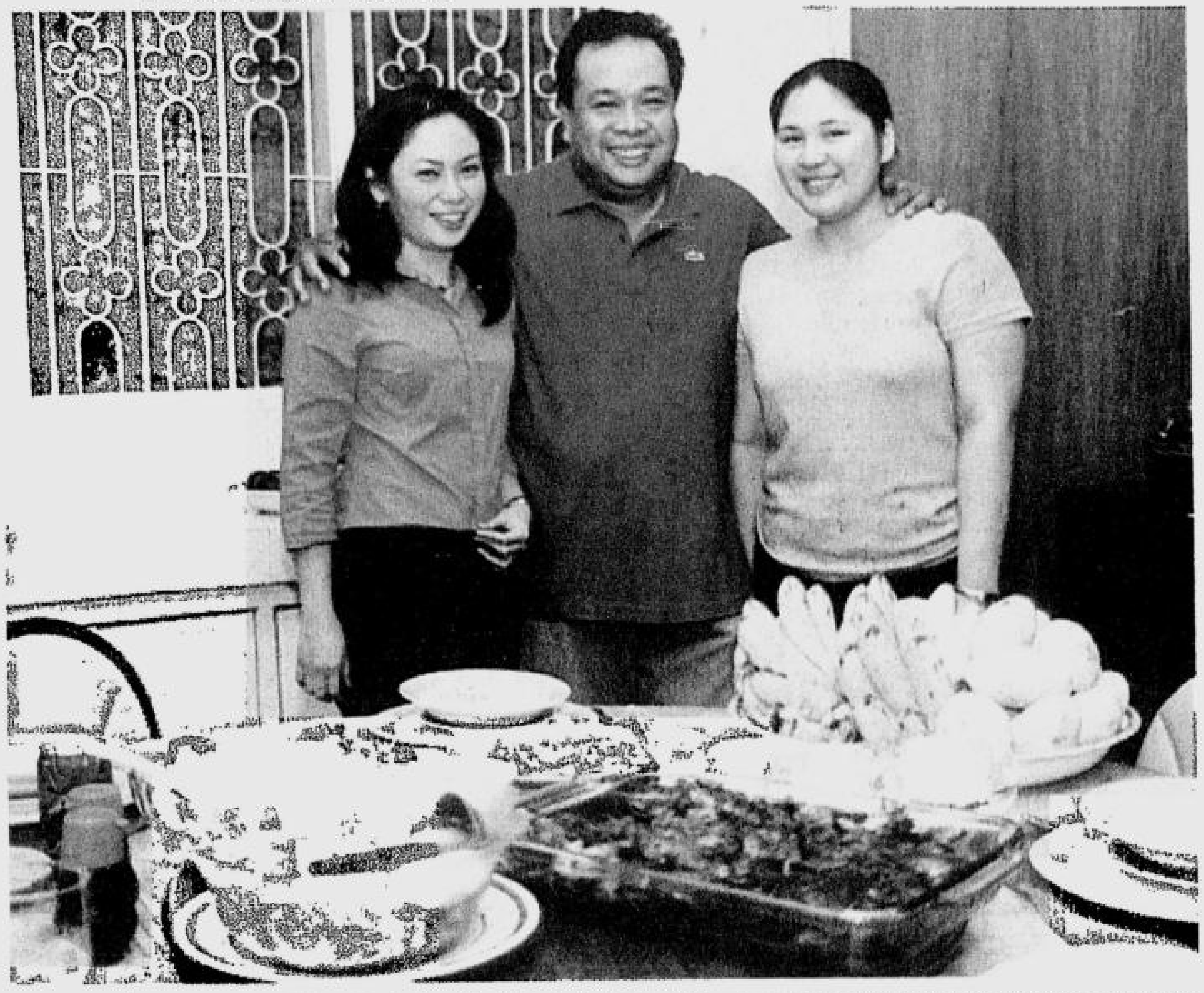
HE doesn't flinch at the thought of putting in long hours in the kitchen, simmering the beef or roasting the chicken.



WITH FIANCÉE Queenie Pahati (left) and his daughter Nani, 20, who is studying at Gene Gonzalez's Center for Asia Culinary Studies and is leaving next year for the Culinary Institute of America in San Francisco.

The kitchen is now in session

HE gets pumped up every time he cooks.

From page C1

prepares a feast. "I'm not used to cooking small quantities of dishes." For instance, he cooks about 7-8 kg of pork for *mechado*, 6-7 kg of beef, *laman-loob* and *buntot* for *kare-kare*, and 5-6 kg of *hito* for the *adobo*. The quantity gets even bigger when he intends to share the food with his colleagues and media friends.

"That's how I develop camaraderie," Gonzales discloses. "When you go to my office in the Congress it's like a flat house where 20-40 congressmen and congresswomen hang around. The women would always prod me to cook for them." There are times he feeds about 70 people in the House, "some of them *may* take home *pa*." Their favorite among his specialties are *kaldereta* and *adobong hito*, cooked with lots of garlic. Gonzales' No. 1 fan is the Speaker's wife, Gina de Venecia. "She tells almost everybody I cook well," he says.

For Queenie

One person Ms De Venecia doesn't have to convince is Queenie Pahati, a former reporter for ABC 5 who was covering the House when Gonzales met her.

Early last year, Gonzales lost his wife of 21 years to kidney failure. He thought he would never fall in love again. He was wrong. On the last week of the 11th Congress he met Queenie and before too long, the 48-year old congressman was cooking for the 25-year-old reporter until she had tasted all his specialties. The *adobong hito* became her favorite.

"In short, I used cooking to win the heart of Queenie," he admits.

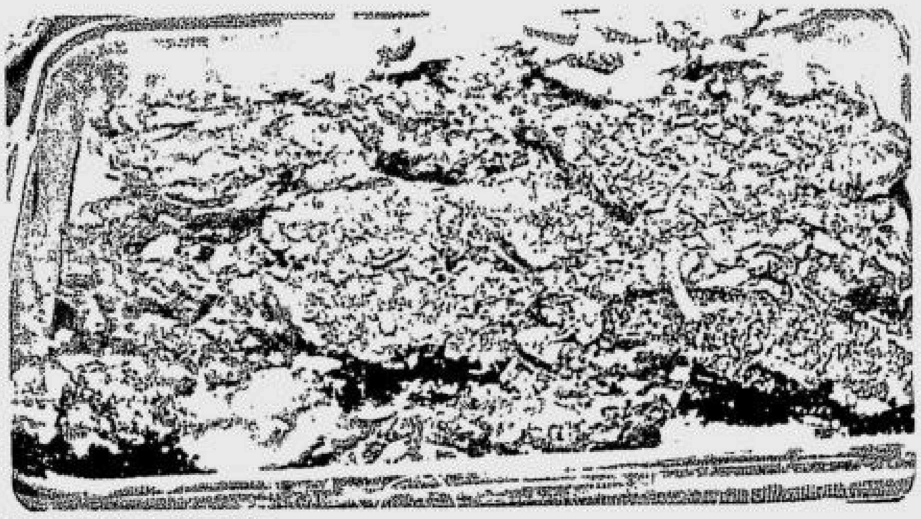
Gonzales will walk down the aisle again with Queenie on Dec. 21 at Elinwood Church in Malate. To them—and everyone else out there who's so in love now—the age difference doesn't matter.

"For all we know, we complement each other. I got the wisdom and maturity, she's got the youth and energy."

Despite his loaded schedule in the political scene, Gonzales finds time to go to the wet market himself at Farmer's Cubao and Edsa Central. "I enjoy going to market because I get to plan the family's menu for the entire week." He buys and picks the freshest produce. He has several *suki* in the market.

"I go there because I love to cook, that's all," he says, as if to belie any suspicion that he goes to market only for show. But the proof is really in the pudding, as they say. His *adobong hito* will have an easy time getting ayes on any floor.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



THE COVETED *adobong hito*

REP. Neptali Gonzales Jr. shares his food with colleagues and media friends in the House.

McCANN-E

The 'ubod' you don't know

By Eufemia C. Estrada

ONCE, while on a stopover in Cebu with my high school paper staff (we were on our way to Davao City for the annual National Secondary Schools Press Conference), we toured the countryside as the ship unloaded and loaded cargo. We chanced upon a group of men cutting down a coconut tree. We suddenly developed a craving for freshly cut *ubod* and offered to buy it from the men. Typical of rural folk, the men would not accept payment and gave us the *ubod* for free.

Unfortunately, by the time the ship arrived in Davao, the *ubod* had started to deteriorate. Moreover, we found that it was plentiful in the Davao wet market. We cooked our Cebu *ubod* just the same, feeling guilty at depriving a rural family of their *ubod*.

What city folks know and value is the *ubod* of the coconut tree. To many of ús, it is the only edible *ubod* we know. But rural homemakers use other kinds of *ubod*—from the *buri*, *tubó* (sugarcane spindle), betel nut and *saging*.

I tasted *ubod ng buri* in Marinduque when I attended the Moriones festival. Then Boac Mayor Dominador Leonida Sr. introduced it to our group at a lunch in his house. "A typical Marinduque delicacy," he proudly declared. I politely tried the unfamiliar dish but found it bitter.

In Kalibo, Aklan, I got a taste of *ubod ng saging* in the local specialty *inubaran*, chicken in *gata* with *ubod ng saging*.

Since bananas are more accessible in urban areas, I will concentrate on *ubod ng saging*.

For the uninitiated, I would like to share some tips I got from Margie Pastrana of Kalibo many years ago:

- *Ubad*, as it is known to Aklanons, must be harvested from young *saba* plants (others use *butuan*).
- Young *saba* plants are about 4 ft tall and have not yet blossomed.
- Harvest the *ubad* about a foot from the base to just below the point where the leaves begin.
- Peel off the tough outer layers to get to the tender core.
- Chop the *ubad* finely and mash with salt to remove the acrid taste.
- Spin a piece of stick (toothpick, bamboo, or wooden chopsticks) through the *ubad* to remove the weblike fiber. It is now ready for cooking.

Inubaran

1 whole chicken, cut into serving pieces
5 cloves garlic, crushed
5 thin slices of ginger
Gata of 1 coconut
Ubad of 1 plant
Bunch of *sili* leaves
Salt to taste

Sauté the chicken in garlic and ginger. Add the thin *gata* and prepared *ubad* and simmer until chicken and *ubad* are tender. Add the thick *gata* and *sili* leaves. Remove from heat when mixture boils. Season with salt to taste.

Adobong Ubod ng Butuan

2 tbsp cooking oil
1 tsp garlic, crushed
1 onion, sliced
½ c cubed pork
4 c water
½ c shelled shrimp
¼ c vinegar
Dash of pepper
Patis to taste

Sauté garlic, onion and pork. Add water and simmer until pork is tender. Mix in shrimp and *ubod ng butuan*. Add vinegar and pepper. Cover and simmer until *ubod* is tender. Season with *patis* to taste.

Gisadong Manok with Ubod ng Saging

2 tbsp cooking oil
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 onion, sliced
Salt to taste
2 tsp soy sauce
1 chicken breast
3 c water
Ubod ng saging (*butuan*), prepared and soaked in 4 c water

Sauté garlic, onion and tomatoes. Season with salt and soy sauce. Add the chicken and water. Simmer until chicken is cooked and almost tender. Drain *ubod* and add to the mixture. Cook until *ubod* is tender. Serve hot.

Nilagang Manok with Ubod ng Saging

½ chicken breast, sliced
4 pc *tanglad* leaves
6 c water or rice washing
1 *ubod ng saging* (*butuan*), prepared for cooking
Salt to taste

Boil chicken and tanglad leaves in water or rice washing. Simmer until chicken is almost tender. Add the *ubod ng saging*. Season to taste with salt and simmer until *ubod* is tender. Serve hot.

Except for the Inubaran, all the recipes are from the Food and Science Nutrition Department of the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

Giving in to impulse may be costly

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

IT doesn't pay to be an impulsive shopper. That may be something that doesn't need repeating but several consumers have asked us to reiterate the warning as they related to us the following typical experiences. They also cautioned against handing credit cards to people during spur-of-the-moment buying sprees. Once a card has been swiped in the machine, the transaction is completed and undoing or canceling it entails a lot of hassles. Most often, the stores and the card-issuing bank will consider the transaction a done deal that could not be reversed.

Cesar C. Celestino of ABS-CBN wrote: "I acquired a Sony Digital Camera worth P45,999 at a BPI Madness Sale in Glorietta [several weeks ago] because they offered it [on installment payable in] 12 months and, supposedly, at zero interest. I later found out that the camera's retail price at regular appliance stores was only P39,999. That was a clear case of misrepresentation because I believed that a claim of zero interest meant that the price of the camera was the actual standard retail price of the product. If it was jacked up, then it was not really zero interest."

When Celestino called the attention of the Bank of the Philippine Islands about the obvious unfair practice, he was told that Sony dropped the price right after the sale. The BPI spokesperson told him that "they (the bank) had no control over it."

Michelle at West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, couldn't decide whether or not to take the promo offer of Perk Body Care Center for a 10- body-massage sessions plus free facial at 50-percent off the regular rate of P15,000. She finally took the offer on condition that she could still cancel the following day. She gave her Citibank credit card and was told by the salesgirl that the transaction would be on her bill in September.

Michelle found out it was a mistake to hand her card and sign a piece of paper that looked like an invoice. When she called up the next day to cancel, the salesgirls she dealt with had taken the day off. Michelle then called Citibank to stop payment.

It was too late. She was told she couldn't cancel the transaction because she had signed a contract. Moreover, Citibank did not stop payment because it needed a formal cancellation order from the body care center. Her only option, according to the manager of the center, was to sell her "rights" to the massage package.

TV shopping hassles

Journalist Melba Tolentino regretted the day she gave her private home telephone number to a telemarketer when she bought products from a home-television shopping company. We know that Tolentino got hooked on home-TV shopping when she retired from the media in 1999. "The products were wonderful. They made homemaking a breeze and I had no regrets buying them although I discovered later that the products could also be bought at the malls at less cost," she said.

Her one regret, however, was that from day one, a succession of aggressive telemarketers had been calling her up at all hours. Even when she stopped buying products from her favorite company, the calls still came regularly.

Tolentino said, "They call up even at night to offer new products and promotional sales. I used to fend them off [politely]. They would apologize saying they didn't realize they were disturbing me because it was their first time to call me up.

"[But] the pesky telemarketers have become a regular nuisance. At one point, I had to bang the phone... Enough is enough! There ought to be a law against aggressive telemarketers calling up private telephone lines at unholy hours."

She warned TV viewers to think twice when they are tempted by the advisory at the end of infomercials to "pick up that phone and dial now to order!"

No VAT receipts

From a concerned motorist: "Some gasoline stations issue VAT receipts, others don't, for example this Petron gas station in Bulacan. I bought P300 worth of unleaded gas. When I asked for a receipt with VAT so as not to deprive the government of this [revenue], I was told by the cashier that they only issued VAT receipts to service-related transactions like change oil and car wash."

Swatch repair shop

Sanque Jr. of Tanauan, Batangas, wants to know where he can have his Swatch repaired. The warranty period had expired, he explained. Sanque wrote: "Three months after the warranty expired, my Swatch just stopped running. There was nothing wrong with the battery as I found out. The trouble was I could not find any local Swatch service center. Local stores told me they would only replace the watch if it was still covered by a warranty. When my friend brought my watch to a Swatch store in Singapore, he was also told that there was nothing they could do because the warranty had expired. Does that mean Swatch watches are disposable?"

Pancit from vegetable

Ma. Elena Peñalorida of Phil-Spice & Flavor wrote: "Thank you for writing about our product, *pancit canton*, made from natural ingredients. Please inform consumers that we also have *canton* made from squash, *ube* and *saluyot*. In addition to that, we have other natural-based products."

For more information, write to farmtec@manila-online.net

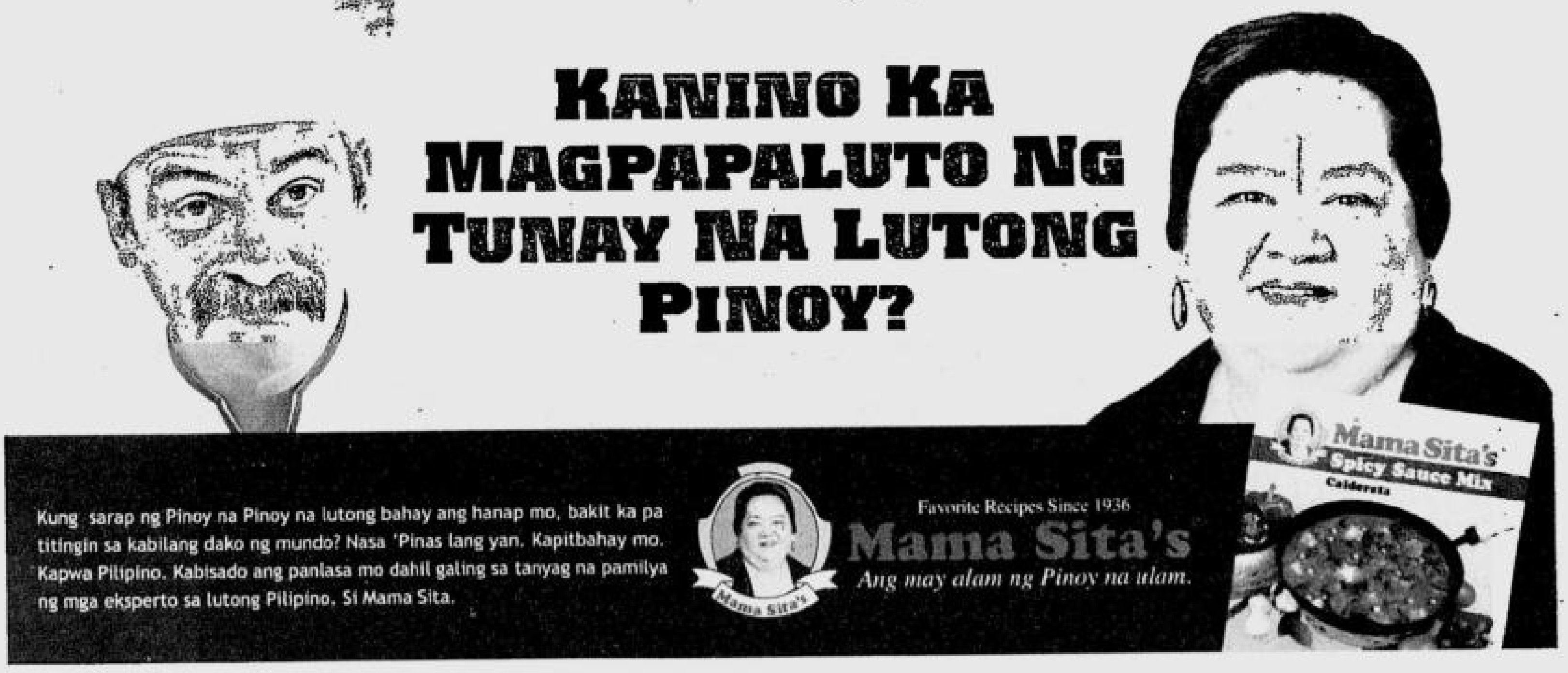
E-mail author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

Burger house features weekly specials

HOTSHOTS Flame Grilled Burgers recently launched Burgerfest, which features a special burger every week until Nov. 10. Order the featured burger and get entitled to a free bottomless drink. Add P30 more and get to savor the potato wedges.

Featured special burgers are the Caramelized Onion Burger (until Sept. 29), King Fisher (Sept. 30-Oct. 6), Real Blue Cheese Burger (Oct. 7-13), Kamikaze Burger (Oct. 14-20), Crispy Burger Melt (Oct. 21-27), Buffalo Chicken Sandwich (Oct. 28-Nov. 3) and Garlic Cheeseburger (Nov. 4-10).

Hotshots has branches on Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center; Libis, QC; Jupiter Street, Makati; Leon Guinto (near Taft Avenue), and Glorietta.



KANINO KA MAGPAPALUTO NG TUNAY NA LUTONG PINOY?

Kung sarap ng Pinoy na Pinoy na lutong bahay ang hanap mo, bakit ka pa titingin sa kabilang dako ng mundo? Nasa 'Pinas lang yan. Kapitbahay mo. Kapwa Pilipino. Kabisado ang panlasa mo dahil galing sa tanyag na pamilya ng mga eksperto sa lutong Pilipino. Si Mama Sita.

Favorite Recipes Since 1936
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Ang may alam ng Pinoy na ulam.

AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARD

RICKSON

How the cook became a joyful one

COOKIN
stephB.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

SHE has been cooking since she was 7 years old. Her first job was to spread softened butter or peanut butter and guava jam evenly from edge to edge on crust-less white bread slices for sandwiches. Later she graduated to watching out for the rice, making sure it never acquired bitterness from a crust burnt by too hot a fire. She had been tagging along to market as well. There was sweetness to smell for in a ripe-looking mango. There was the sound of hollowness to listen for as one tapped the wall of watermelon. Red tomatoes were caressed for plumpness and fleshiness. One looked a fish straight in the eye to check if it still had just-caught clearness.

THE JOYFUL COOK

Felice Prudente Sta.Maria

Kitchen lure

One learned by doing. Fire, knife and coconut grater could be friend or foe. Mincing, slicing, grinding, sifting, frying, sautéing, stewing, boiling had numerous variations. One cut meat, vegetables and fruits into shapes resembling matchsticks, coins, flowers, diamonds, cubes, and into thicknesses of cardboard or thinnesses of coupon bond. One pulverized nuts and brown sugar cheeks as fine as sand or the size of papaya seeds. Garlic cloves were simply smashed open, cut till they resembled sesame seeds, or tied to a colorful string so they could be pulled out of a Russian salad before serving. Poultry and fish were deboned, gutted, rubbed with rock salt and bathed till gloriously clean before turning into forcemeats like *rellenos* and *galantinas*.

The kitchen lured wherever she went. There was Lola Cunching's kitchen in the capital. It was for baking spice cakes, chocolate cakes, Christmas cookies and apple pies. Nearby was Manuel's kitchen. There he made boiled fruit salad dressing, plucked feathers from chickens, fried dried fish with all the spatter Lola disliked, and with samurai precision decapitated purchases for his cauldrons.

Cooks galore

The cook's kitchen came to life during May and October fiestas. Her family's table had acquired a fine reputation through several generations. The best cooks wanted to assist when her clans related by marriage converged. On the floor newly scrubbed with sandpaper-like *isis* leaves, the women worked for hours bent over low tables and thick sections of tree-trunks turned chopping boards. They tied colorful towels as aprons and often kept their babies or toddlers asleep on a floor mat beside them. It was an exciting time with exchange of recipes, suppliers and small-town gossip.

A happy heart can bring a smile to the tummy

There were cranky cooks and sloppy cooks. Some smoked with the lighted end of a brown cigarette inside their mouth; others mumbled bleary-eyed as they gulped down beer straight from the bottle. Some were extravagant in both gesture and use of imported ingredients like *chorizo bilbao*, Edam cheese, capers, Vienna sausages, thick cream and fruit cocktail. There were nervous cooks and angry cooks, young cooks and old cooks, thin cooks and fat cooks. Despite their varied temperaments and tempers, they all cooked well. Some cooks she liked to work with because they never spoke ill of people and always seemed positive in their outlook. They were happy. She felt that the nervous, short-tempered ones she'd inherited from her grandaunts and mother were to be avoided no matter how talented.

Mood food

She noticed some foods made her happy: candies, cookies, foods heavy with carbohydrates. They all increase serotonin in the brain. Many antidepressant drugs raise serotonin levels to give an emotional lift and a sense of calm. High-protein foods increased her alertness and concentration, while a high carbohydrate meal made her calm but sometimes sleepy.

Studies published by Newsweek and Science Digest in the mid-1980s explained how foods are chemicals. Sometimes people self-medicate by eating feel-good foods. Similarly, what one eats impacts like a drug on physical condition, memory, attention span and mood within just a few hours.

The cook felt it wise to refrain from stressful foods and cooks. Why spend life battling cooking fires and food-snatching pets? Life is too short for that, she whispered to herself, as she left fish bones from a *caldo* for the cat.

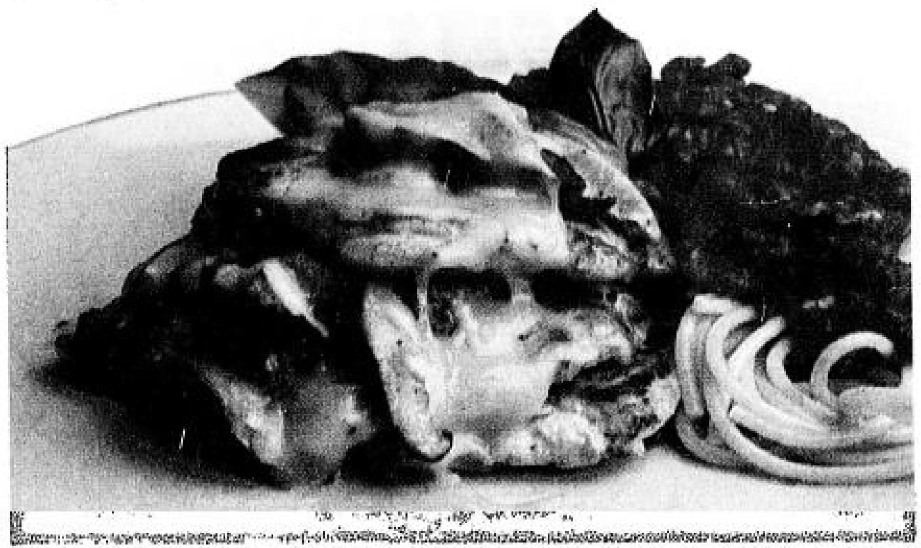
Some cooks never seemed to get sick. They were the ones who went through life with a sense of joy. Research would note: There is good reason to believe that just as there are mind-made diseases, there is "mind-made health." "Who Gets Sick: How Beliefs, Moods and Thoughts Affect Your Health," by Blair Justice (GP Putnam's Sons, NY, 1987), would quote P. Shaver and J. Freedman in "Psychology Today" (1976): "Happiness...turns out to be more a matter of how you regard your circumstances than of what the circumstances are."

Revelation

The cook then came across a line by Des Essarts (1740-1793), a famous gastronome and Comedie-Francaise actor. Perhaps he was right when he pondered: "Good cookery is the food of a pure conscience." French magistrate and gastronome Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755-1826) added to her insights: "To invite someone is to take charge of his happiness during the time he spends under your roof."

The cook then remembered an old Filipino saying passed on to her by Manuel: "When the host is heavy at heart, the guests will not feel full." It was essential she seek out a joyful disposition for herself.

Alone before her stove she realized in a moment of great enlightenment that a happy heart can bring a smile to the tummy. From then on she became The Joyful Cook. Saint Sandok noticed the change in her glow immediately.



CHICKEN, Cheese and Mushrooms

No-fuss recipes even for non-cooks

COOKING should be simple and easy, so San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary prepares no-fuss recipes that most people can do.

Any of these dishes—Chicken, Cheese and Mushrooms using Magnolia Chicken Breast Fillet; Mexican Tortilla Soup using Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese; Baked Egg and Beefies featuring Purefoods Beefies Hotdog; Pata Humba with Monterey Pork Pata; and Sugar and Spice Banana à la Mode with Magnolia Gold Butter—are sure to delight everyone.

For more recipes, visit www.sanmiguelculinary.com or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center, corner Legazpi and Eagle Streets, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City 1604.

SUGAR and Spice Banana à la Mode

Sugar and Spice Banana à la Mode

¼ c Magnolia Gold Butter
1 c brown sugar
¼ c white sugar
1 tsp nutmeg powder
1 tsp cinnamon powder
2 tsp honey
2/3 c Bravo Rum
8 pc ripe *saba*, sliced into ¼-inch thick pieces
Ice cream, crushed cornflakes and cinnamon powder for topping

Melt butter in a saucepan. Add sugar, spices, honey and rum. Stir until sugar has dissolved. Let simmer over medium heat until the consistency is similar to maple syrup. Add *saba* and cook until softened. Pour into serving containers and top with vanilla ice cream and crushed cornflakes. Put a sprinkling of cinnamon powder on top. Serve immediately. Makes 6 servings.

Chicken, Cheese and Mushrooms

1 500-g pack Magnolia Chicken Breast Filllet
1 tbsp minced garlic
¼ c extra virgin olive oil
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Mushroom Sauté
¼ c olive oil
1 tbsp minced garlic
2 c sliced assorted mushrooms (shiitake, abalone, oyster, button)
Salt and ground black pepper to taste
½ c grated Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese

Pound chicken breast fillets into thin pieces. Add garlic, olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Pan-grill chicken over moderate heat until cooked through. Place on a baking dish and set aside. In a pan, heat oil. Sauté garlic and mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper. Place mixture on top of chicken. Sprinkle grated cheese on top and bake at 350°F for 8-10 mins. Makes 6-8 servings.

Baked Egg and Beefies

½ c Dari Crème Classic
½ kg chopped and seeded tomatoes
1/3 c chopped white onions
¼ c chopped basil
1 c sliced Purefoods Beefies Hotdog
10 eggs
¼ c Magnolia Cheezee, grated
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 375°F. Heat ¼ c margarine in a shallow pan. Cook onions until softened. Add tomatoes and basil and cook until very soft. Place mixture in a baking dish. Stir in beefies. Break eggs one at a time and arrange evenly on top. Season with salt and pepper. Dot with remaining margarine. Top with grated cheese. Bake for 12-15 mins. Makes 8-10 servings.

Mexican Tortilla Soup

6 c water
1 pc Chicken Bouillon cube
1 pc Beef Bouillon cube
Salt and pepper to taste

Condiments:
1 pc avocado, diced
3 pc scallions, chopped
4 tbsp cilantro leaves
2 pc finger pepper, chopped
1 pc lime, cut into wedges
2 pc tomatoes, seeded and diced
1 c Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese, grated
2 pc Flour Tortilla, cut into strips and fried

Dissolve bouillon cubes in 6 c water. Boil and season with salt and pepper. Place in bowls and allow guests to add condiments of their choice. Serve hot. Makes 6 servings.

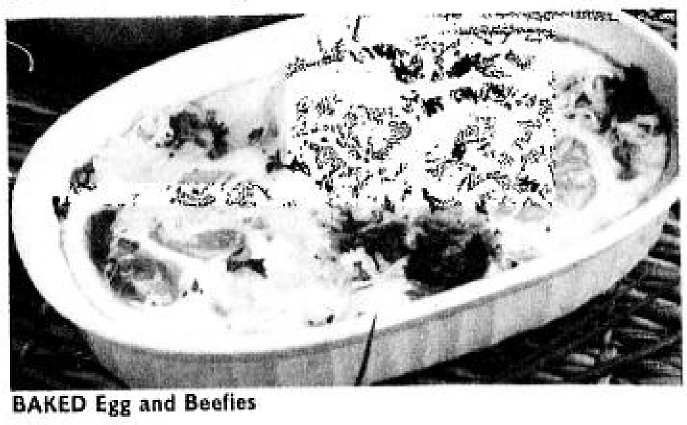
Humba

1 pc Monterey Pata, cut into serving pieces
½ c vinegar
2 c water
1 tbsp minced garlic
2 tbsp brown sugar
10 pc peppercorns, crushed
¼ c soy sauce
1 pc bay leaf
2 tbsp black beans
Banana blossom
Salt

Put the *pata* in the pot. Add vinegar, 2 c water, garlic, sugar, peppercorns, soy sauce, bay leaf and black beans. Boil mixture until *pata* is very tender. Correct seasoning with salt. Banana blossom may be added if desired.

Recipe courtesy of Philippine Cuisine Cookbook

MEXICAN Tortilla Soup



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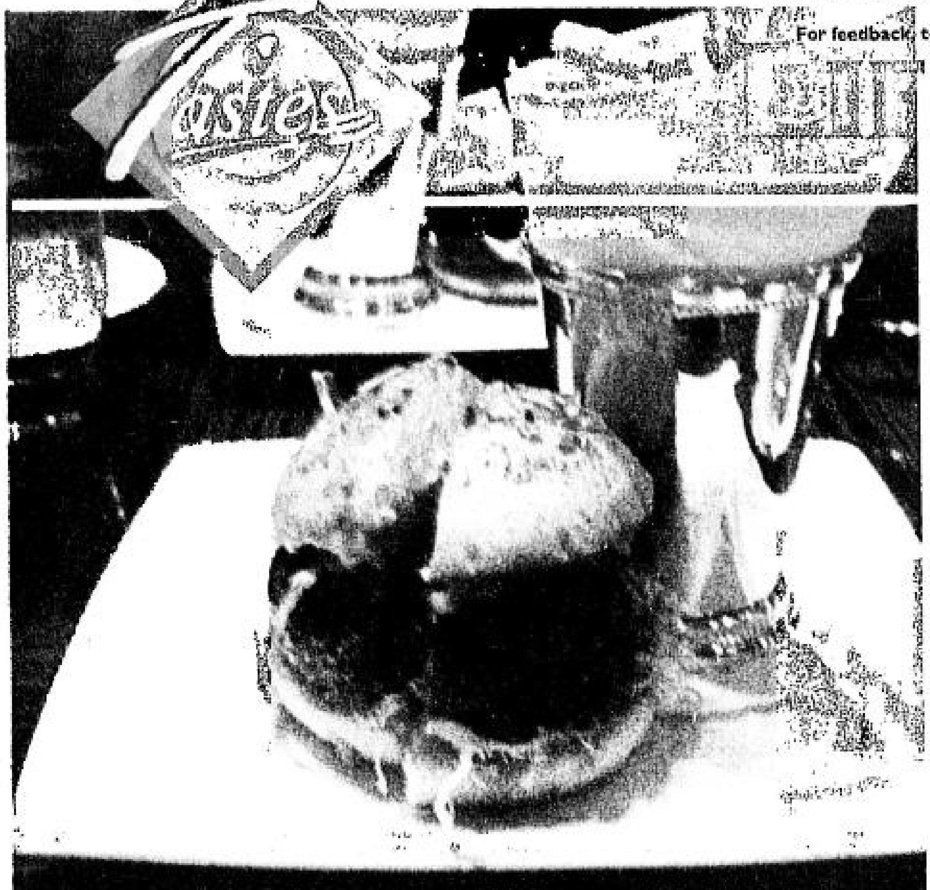

THE OVER-PUBLICIZED $29 Daniel Boulud DB Burger, stuffed with braised short ribs, foie gras and truffles

New York
The 75 Best Meals Under $20

In the Big Apple, bread rules

By Margarita A. Forés

Noted restaurateur Margarita Forés does the New York mag's panini-crawl and shares her finds with our readers

THE GOURMET sandwich trend started quietly in early 2001. Downtown on Bedford Street, in the West Village, Mario Batali's (Molto Mario, as we know him) partner at restaurant Lupa, Jason Denton, opened 'ino, a hole-in-the-wall grilled panini haven, with the most beautiful crusty breads and ingenious combinations of premium Italian salumi,

IN THE BIG/ p.D2

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MS. AVELINA CARBUNGCO FLORENDO introduced cake decorating technique in the Philippines the WILTON WAY, the AUSTRALIAN way of making gumpaste flowers with very fine strings and lace on fondant, the ENGLISH way or LAMBETH WORK of overpiped scrolls and strings of very tiny flowers, the SWISS CHOCOLATE TECHNIQUE and GUMPASTE DOLL course. She and her son Jun, introduced the latest technique which they learned in Telford, York & London, British Sugar craft and The International Cake Exploration Societe, August 24-28, 2002 at Nashville, Tennessee, U. S. A.

1) Oct. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 / 8:30 am - 5 pm - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING - P7,500. Learn the practical & easy method of making icing flowers, borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow, color technique, wedding cake assembly. Nov. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
2) Oct. 11 - P7,500 - Learn to make your own doll mold.
3) Oct. 12 - NEW CAKES, PASTRIES AND COOKIES - P2,500. Cooked Carrot Cake, Banana Cake, Peanut Butter Cookies, Coconut Cookies, Choco-Chip Cookies, Chocolate Nut Cookies, Hopia, Siopao. Next schedule: Nov. 8
4) Oct. 14, 15, 16, 17 / 8:30 am - 5pm - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD CAKE DECORATING - P7,500. New method of gumpaste, flowers, objects, marzipan, quilting, swags & ribbons, ribbon insertion, finest string works, lace pieces, fondant, chocolate fondant. Next schedule: Nov. 11, 12, 13, 14
5) Oct. 19 - LEARN SUGAR-FREE CAKES AND BREADS - P4,000. Banana Cake, Apple Almond Cake, Chocolate Walnut Cookies, Carrot Cake, All Wheat Bread & Raisin Bread. Next schedule: Nov. 16
6) Oct. 23 / 8am - 5pm - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT USING LACE MATS, NEW ROLLING PIN, SWAGS & RIBBONS - P3,000. Next schedule: Nov. 20
7) Oct. 21, 22, 23, 24 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH RECIPE - P3,500 each. 1) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-Waling 2) Rose, Catleya, Cymbidium 3) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies 4) Open Rose, Hydrangea, Grapes
8) Oct. 21, 22, 23, 24 / 8 am - 5 pm - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P9,500. 30 recipes of the basic cakes, breads, pies, pastries and cookies.
9) Oct. 22, 23, 24, 25 / 8am - 5pm - COLD PORCELAIN DOLL 4-Day Course - P10,500. Make everlasting dolls using the latest technique in Cold Porcelain Nov. 19, 20, 21, 22
10) Oct. 28, 29, 30, 31 - SPECIAL BAKING - P10,500. Learn to make 30 kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has different icing and decoration.
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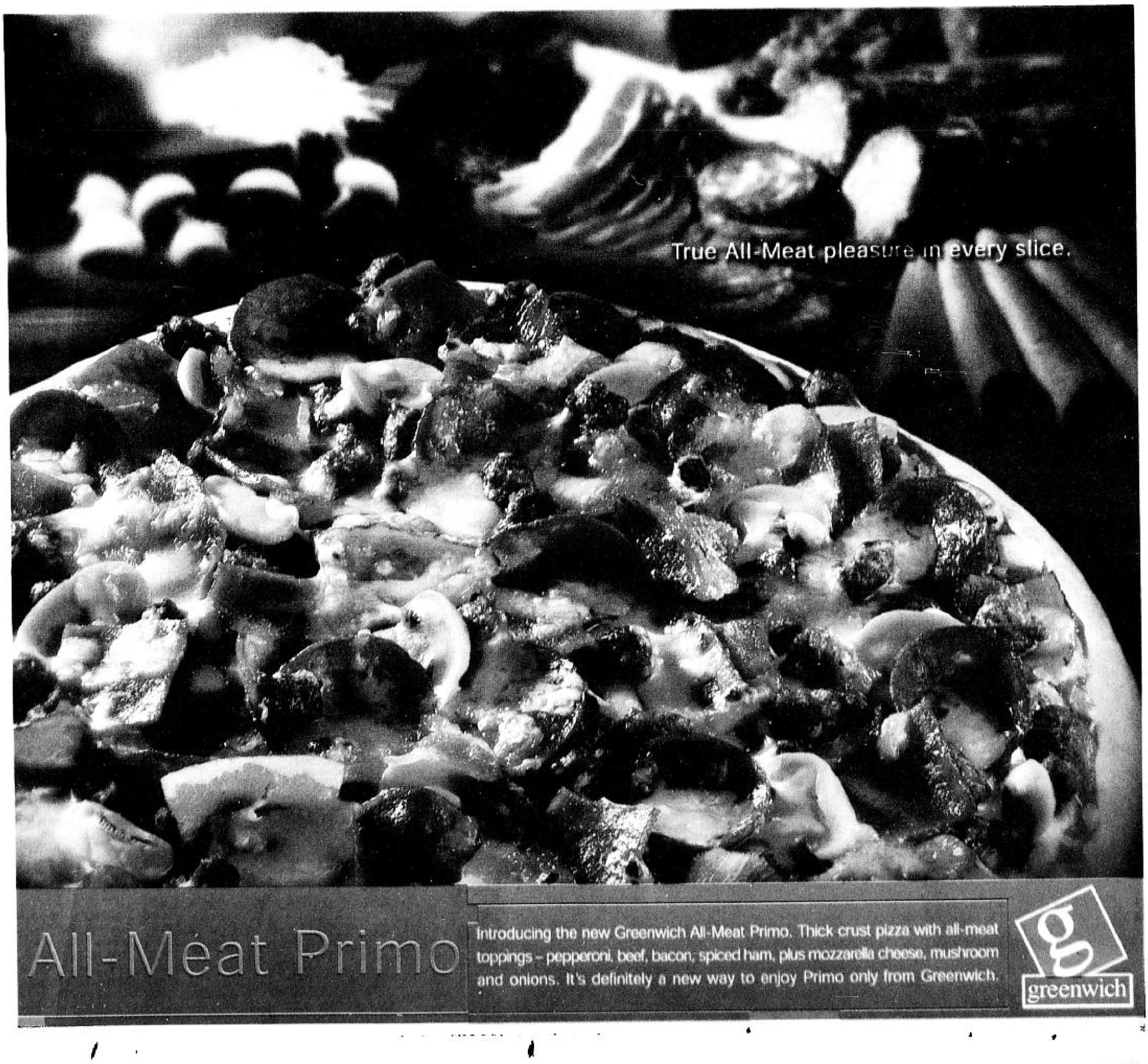
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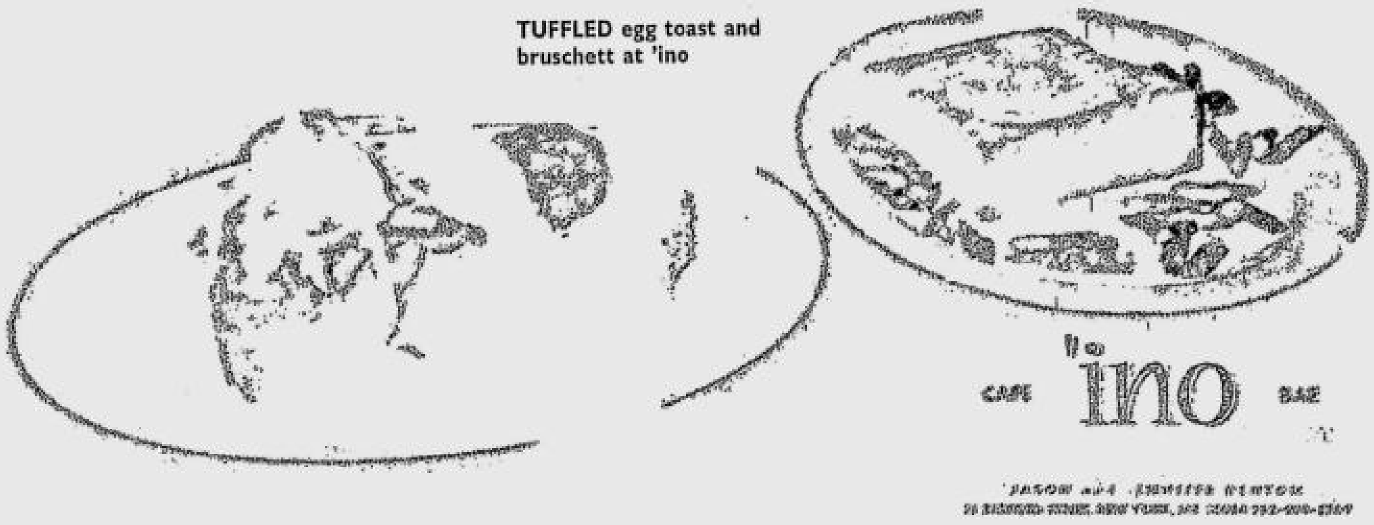
greenwich

AKA Café's lamb's tounge with jelly and almond butter, plus the slider



TUFFLED egg toast and bruschett at 'ino

In the Big Apple, bread rules

From page D1

cheeses, etc. Then, when three-star chef Daniel Boulud of Daniel fame opened his spin-off concept, the more casual DB Bistro Moderne on West 44th, and launched the $29 DB Burger ("sirloin burger filled with braised short ribs, foie gras, and black truffle"), there was no turning back.

THE MOTORINO that stands outside the tiny Bar Veloce

The sandwich frenzy reaches far and wide, adding glamour to New York's standard fare of the usual tuna fish and rye and over-stuffed pastrami sandwiches from countless Jewish delis, the Sabrett hotdog umbrella stands on the street, the grease-laden coffee shop burgers and fries, the transplanted-from-Philadelphia cheese-steak sandwiches, better known as sliders, or even the lowly PBJ, the made-by-mom in a brown paper bag child's lunchbox mainstay, the peanut-butter and jelly sandwich.

Here's a listing of the latest bread-based meals that have overtaken the palates of New Yorkers, with the Italian panino, mostly grilled, leading the way. Enjoy the sandwich tour and see why bread rules now in the Big Apple, suiting their new, more prudent and "stick-to-the basics" New Yorker mindset, as well as their so-little-time, always on-the-run, lifestyle. But what is more heartwarming to know is that not for one moment have they given up their high standards for taste and their desire to satisfy such discriminating taste buds. What is even more reassuring to note is that our Filipino palates halfway around the world are as discriminating and totally up-to-date. Even if rice rules on our shores, we are luckier, since we, too, have many bread-based options that widen our choices, big-time.

Taking Molto Mario's cue, as written in the same New York mag issue, I retraced the steps on their panini-crawl. These panini bars—some with pressed or grilled options, some without—all adhere to the proper proportion of Italian panini-making: great crusty bread with just the right amount of filling and just the right amount of cheese, the first never overwhelming the latter. This is the complete antithesis of the American overstuffed deli-style sandwich.

THE NEW potato puff that comes with DB's $29 foie-gras burger

Panini and Tramezzini

'ino (21 Bedford Street, NYC 212 989 5769)

This pioneering paninoteca, serving up such strokes of genius as the bruschetta with ricotta fresca and oven-roasted tomatoes, or the panino with prosciutto, bel paese and sweet onion, was my favorite in 2001, and is still my favorite now after completing the crawl. Go for a quiet breakfast of truffled egg toast, a hollowed out square piece of bread with an egg cooked inside the hole, topped with parmesan slivers, asparagus and truffle oil. (Great wine list.)

Bread (20 Spring Street, NYC 212 334 1015)

Barely a year old, many refer to it as the pretty good "'ino" knock-off that seems to have come into its own. A little less authentic Italian with some Newyorkese innovation. Try Sicilian sardines with tomatoes and Thai pepper mayonnaise, or the gorgonzola dolce with golden delicious apple and honey on cranberry raisin bread.

Craftbar (41 East 19th Street, NYC 212 780 0880)

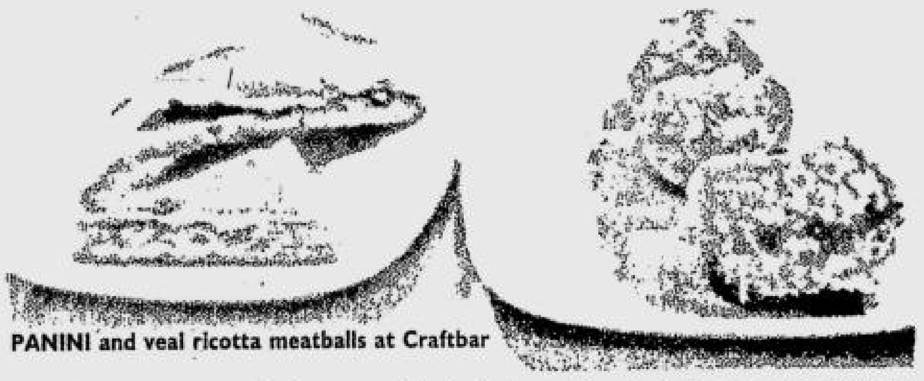
Craft, with its deconstructed and simplified food concept, outdoes itself with this low on price but extra-high on flavor option, in a more casual and relaxed setting. Both cold and warm pressed panini options here—the duck ham, hen of the woods mushroom and taleggio panino may leave you speechless. The veal ricotta meatballs may cause you to forget your name.

Bar Veloce (175 Second Ave., NYC 212 260 3200)

Just a tiny strip of a bar counter where you can watch a serious panino artist in an old-fashioned white cotton painter's jacket artfully assemble your panino with utmost precision, care and lightness of hand. Bruschetta with fig tartare, rosemary, and pinoli and the panino with prosciutto di parma, mushrooms, truffle oil and fontina are quite awesome. An extensive wine list awaits you while you watch old Italian movies on a tv screen; a '50s Italian scooter-motorino sits confidently by the front door to set the scene. Please note the "no substitutions please" sign on the menu, which obviously implies, we know better so don't play chef; just eat and enjoy. And, yes, they do have a point.

Melampo (Sullivan Street, NYC)

A no-sign hole-in-the-wall Italian grocery with a blue façade where an eccentric Italiano with a serious face and a monosyllabic manner and the monicker Sandwich Nazi assembles cold panini on crusty loaves. There is only one piece of paper with the panini menu tacked on a shelf, no other copies and, presumably, no substitutions of fillings as well. Don't be surprised if you come one early afternoon and find it closed. He works whenever he feels like; take it or leave it. But I guarantee, it's worth the nerves, humiliation and persecution.



PANINI and veal ricotta meatballs at Craftbar

Paradou (8 Little West 12th Street, NYC 212 463 8345)

In the currently hot Chelsea meat packers area, a Frenchy panini bar that serves French wines and pressed options, the best-selling being the duck rillettes with capers. So packed, Mario and his crawl mates could only watch. I could only peer through the glass, but have vowed to make it my first stop next time.

Via Quadronno (25 East 73rd Street, NYC 212 650 9880)

The only uptown location in this list, and obviously a tad pricier surely due to the rent. At this branch of a Milan operation located on Via Quadronno, Italo-philes like me can get a vicarious like-I'm-there feeling, instantly. The bestseller here is the "non ti scordar di me" or the Forget Me Not, filled with speck, brie and paté, a choice that deserves its name. Go for the porchetta, since they are the pioneers in this. They proudly exhibit an inviting caricature of the smiling pig at the front. They boast of the best espresso brew and a deconstructed tirami su that will knock your socks off. Great ambiance for your caffé and cornetto breakfast—you'll swear you were in Milan.

Burgers

DB Bistro Moderne (City Club Hotel, 55 West 44th Street, NYC 212 391 2400)

That $29 burger was awesome last year, when I tried it the first time. Second time around , although I was ready with extra napkins, it didn't drip all over my hands at all, like the first. A bit dry and petrified, It just proves that even the uber-chefs like Boulud could falter and their food quality could change. Still a good option after the theater, if only for those oval potato puffs the burgers come with now, in place of the thick fries.

Rouge (135 East 62nd Street, NYC 212 207 4601)

Try Dave Ruggiero's version of the burger inspired by the now over-hyped $29 Boulud version. Slightly less luxe, no truffles and foie gras, but filled with portobellos and braised short ribs, and layered with frisée and roasted tomatoes, on a chewy , crusty bun. The good news is it goes for only $11.95 and comes with super traditional pommes frites.

4 Clinton St. Baking Company (4 Clinton Street, NYC 646 602 6263)

When my eating partners were bent on having brunch fare for lunch on our last day in the city, I was resigned not to be able to enjoy my burger fix for the year, owing to my disappointment with what was supposed to be the ultimate in burgerdom, that DB burger. But much to my surprise, this tiny breakfast place did have a burger. And it wasn't just any Mediocre burger—it was huge, juicy, yes, dripping, and had cheddar cheese and bacon to boot. The homemade extra large potato chips were a bonus. And all this, while my lunchmates downed their buttermilk biscuit sandwiches with scrambled eggs, cheddar and bacon, with homemade tomato jam and hash browns on the side.

Corner Bistro (331 West 4th Street, NYC 212 242 9502)

Again holds the No. 1 rating in the NY Zagat for best burger with a high 23; they shared the No. 1 spot in the 21 Club in 1997, dipped to No. 2 for four years, losing out to Wollensky's Grill after the 21 Club took a bow and closed down, but are now back to top. This slightly dingy dive that serves the buns on paper plates is worth braving the queue for. Even the smoke-filled room, full of beer-drinking students, is easy to deal with once that falling-apart, pure and chunky beef patty, smothered with whatever you want on it, is served to you. As the Zagat says, it could convert a vegetarian.

THE FAÇADE of 'ino

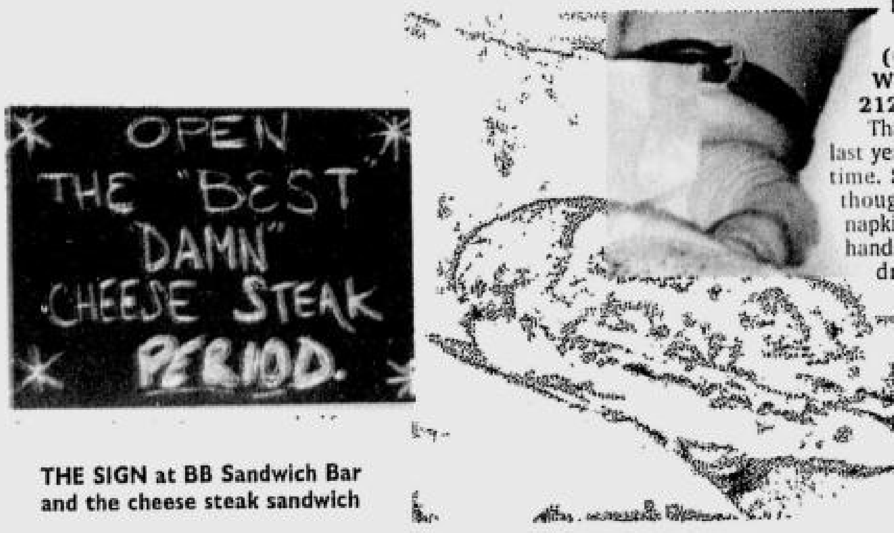
Philly-Cheese Steak Sandwich /Slider

Aka Café (49 Clinton Street, NYC 212 979 6090)

This café is another offshoot of the restaurant hits started by Wylie Dufresne and his 71 Clinton Fresh Food outlet, which had suddenly established the Clinton Street-Delancey Street neighborhood as the new hot street for trendy foodies. This was once only a haven for discount shopping in Jewish-run outlet stores, and lunching or ordering take-out at Jewish delis serving up bales and bales of pastrami. This casual mini resto with fiberglass chairs has a hanger steak slider sandwich on a pressed bialy (a Jewish soft roll) served with red onion and a pickle; so damn good, you'll want two all to yourself.

BB Sandwich Bar (120 West 3rd Street, NYC 212 473 7500)

Don't expect variety here. Just one product at $4.50 a pop, but truly the best Phili-style cheese steak sandwich ever. The only innovation here is the Kaiser roll it's made with, and a special fancy red-pepper relish, plus a huge mound of caramelized onions to top it off. If you want to eat in, fight for the one table that seats three, pushed against the wall by the buying counter. Otherwise just take it in the bag, and you won't be able to resist sticking your hand in, and taking a bite even before you reach the sidewalk.



THE SIGN at BB Sandwich Bar and the cheese steak sandwich

Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich

Aka Café

An open-faced lamb's tongue sandwich with almond butter, in place of the usual peanut butter, and red currant jelly instead of the usual grape or berry jellies, but it will still remind you of your lunchbox. The glorified bar food here includes a variety of *empanadas* served with a variety of chutneys, plus a dulce de leche pudding light as a cloud that left me staring into space for an eternity.

Peanut Butter & Co. (240 Sullivan St. (Bleecker/West 3rd) NYC 212 677 3995

A café solely dedicated to peanut butter, serving up a wide selection of classic peanut butter choices, flavored peanut butter ones (dark chocolate, cinnamon raisin and spicy peanut butter, to name a few) and an endless peanut butter dessert list. Plus, special peanut butter blends are for sale. the notables are The Elvis, grilled peanut butter sandwich stuffed with sliced bananas and honey; the Peanut Butter BLT, toasted bread and fresh cut bacon with peanut butter; and the Pregnant Lady, peanut butter with pickles, served with fair warning that it could induce labor. Only in America!

DAWGS ON PARK

Hotdogs

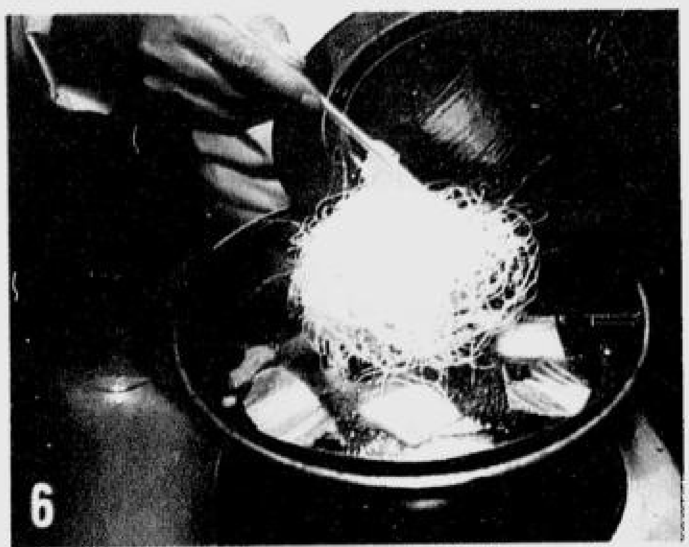
Dawgs on Park (178 East 7th Street, NYC 212 598 0667)

Another hole-in-the-wall serving up Hebrew National hotdogs , as well as turkey and tofu options. Unique entries are the Chihuahua, *chorizo* sausage wrapped in a whole wheat tortilla, with spicy corn tortilla and Monterey jack cheese. A selection of fries, including sweet potato ones, is also available. A deep-fried cheesecake sounded absolutely tempting for dessert.

Gray's Papaya (at three locations: 72nd and Broadway, 8th St. and Sixth Avenue, 37th and Eighth)

For the cheapest and the best dog, need I say more?

Peanut Butter & Co.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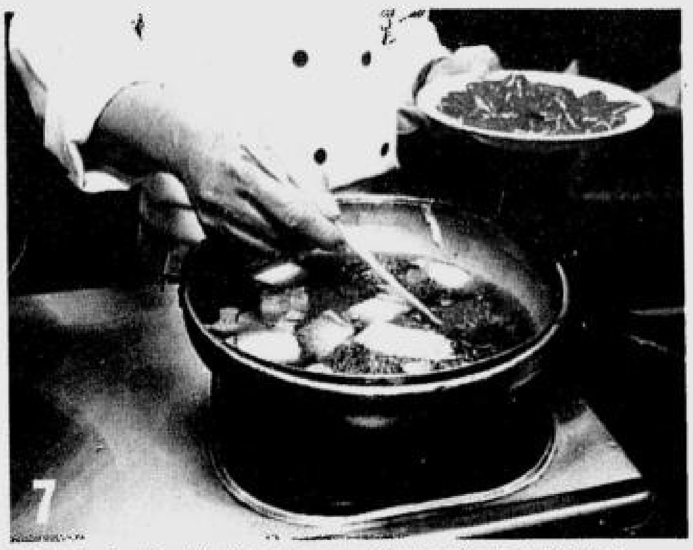
PUT in *sotanghon*. Remember, as the liquid boils away add more sukiyaki sauce.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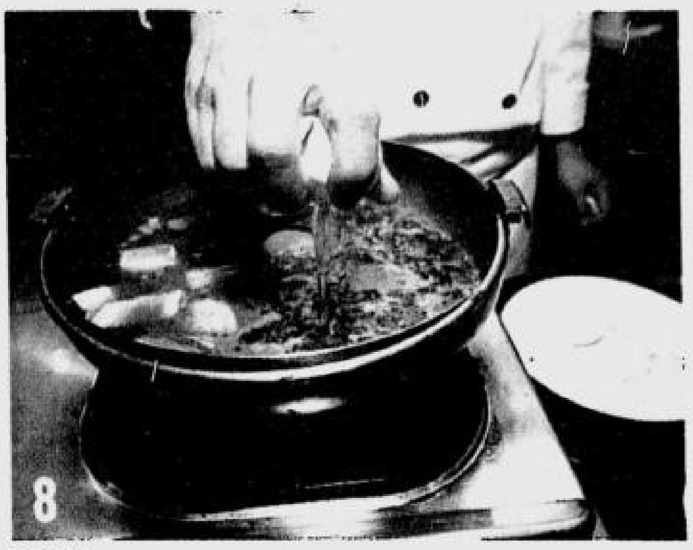
ADD the beef until slightly brown. Simmer for few minutes.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DROP in eggs.

Simple sukiyaki

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

SUKIYAKI, the traditional Japanese dish of vegetables, noodles and beef, is a one-pot meal that most Japanese food lovers usually crave for and attempt to cook at home but often fail.

STEP BY STEP

Sukiyaki's main ingredient is the thinly sliced beef, which is simmered in a heavy skillet in the sukiyaki sauce with lots of vegetables. The word *yaki* means "sauté" or "grill" in Japanese. The beef and veggies in sukiyaki are usually sautéed in a hot skillet.

The quality of beef used in sukiyaki is very important so it helps to ask a butcher to slice the tender part of the beef into very thin slices. It tastes better if the beef is cut very thin. Then, cut the vegetables into bite-size pieces.

According to Chef Eduardo Idorot, sushi chef of Sulô Hotel's Teppanyaki Restaurant and Sushi Bar, sukiyaki is traditionally cooked at the dinner table, and it's common to eat with others from the same pan, fondue-style. However, other people prefer to cook it in the comforts of their kitchen and serve it nicely—and individually—in a bowl, with rice on the side.

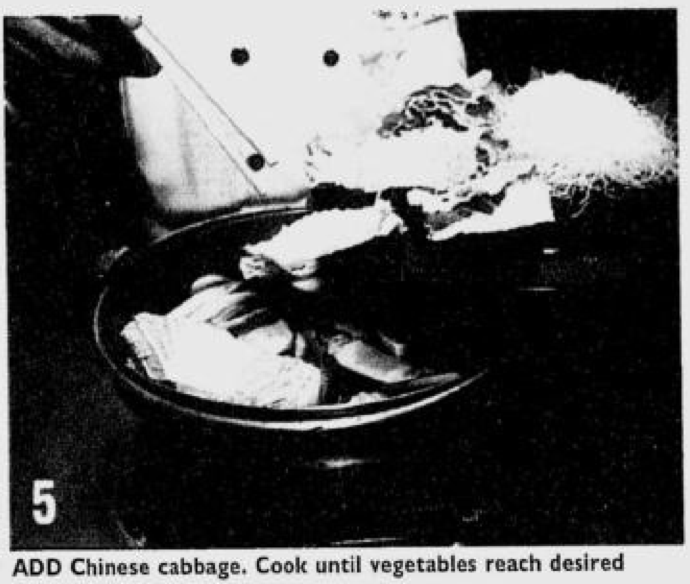
Here, Idorot prepares a simple version of sukiyaki. He uses a variety of vegetables that are readily available in the market. "You can make your own sukiyaki depending on your preferred veggies," he says. You can either use button or shiitake mushrooms; Baguio *pechay* or Chinese cabbage; *sotanghon* or angel's hair. But, unlike other noodle dishes, sukiyaki's ingredients are all simmered in one pan but they should not be mixed together. The vegetables and meat must be on separate mounds.

To make the sukiyaki sauce, simply mix together Kikkoman soy sauce, water, sugar, *mirin* (Japanese wine) and seaweeds in a bowl. This recipe makes two servings.

Ingredients:
150 g thinly sliced beef
200 g Chinese cabbage, cut into serving pieces
100 g onion leeks, sliced diagonally
100 g button mushrooms, whole or cut in half
200 g *sotanghon*, soaked in water for a few minutes
100 g bamboo shoots, cut in thin rounds
100 g carrots, cut in thin rounds
200 g tofu, quartered
2 pc eggs
1 large sliced onion

Sukiyaki sauce:
1 c Kikkoman soy sauce
4 c water
1 c sugar
1 c *mirin*
20 g *kunbo* leaves (seaweeds)

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph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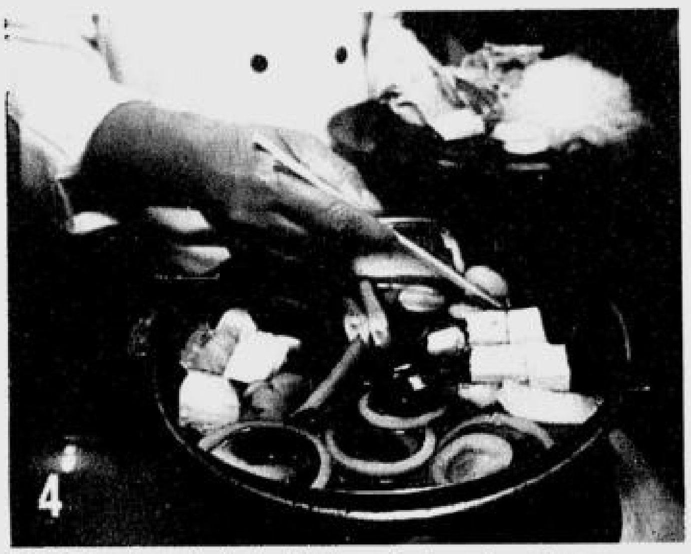
ADD Chinese cabbage. Cook until vegetables reach desired tenderness.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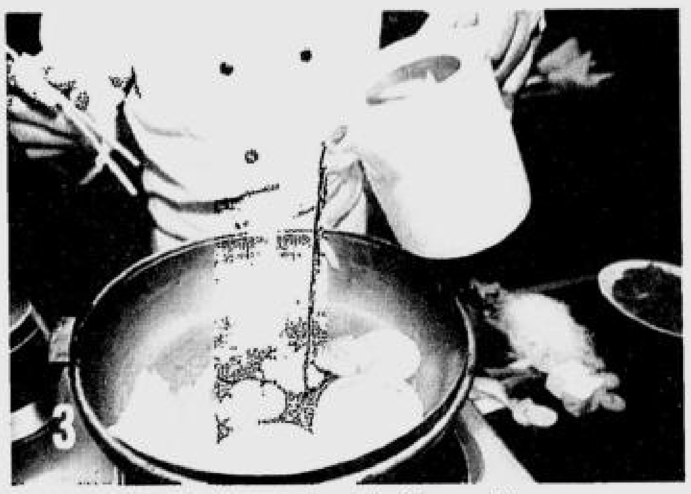
DROP in tofu, onion leeks, bamboo shoots and mushrooms. Simmer for few minutes.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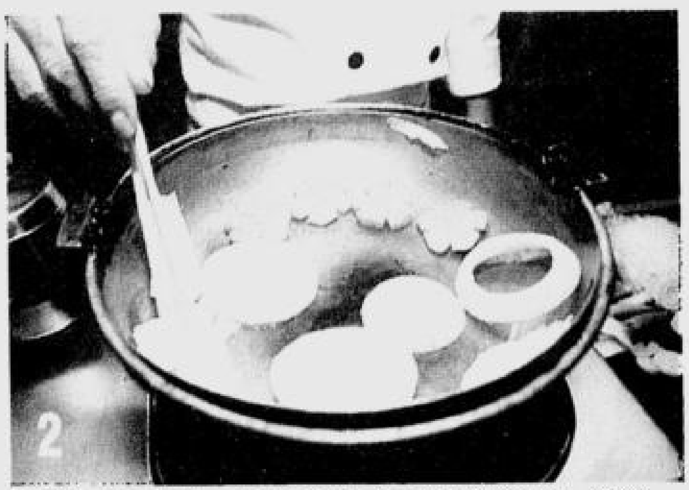
POUR in the sukiyaki sauce. Let it boil for a while.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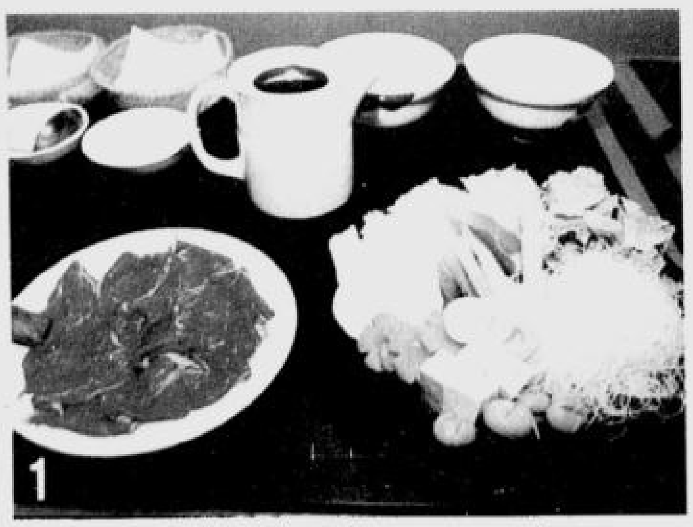
HEAT a little oil in a heavy skillet or a deep frying pan. Sauté carrots and onions.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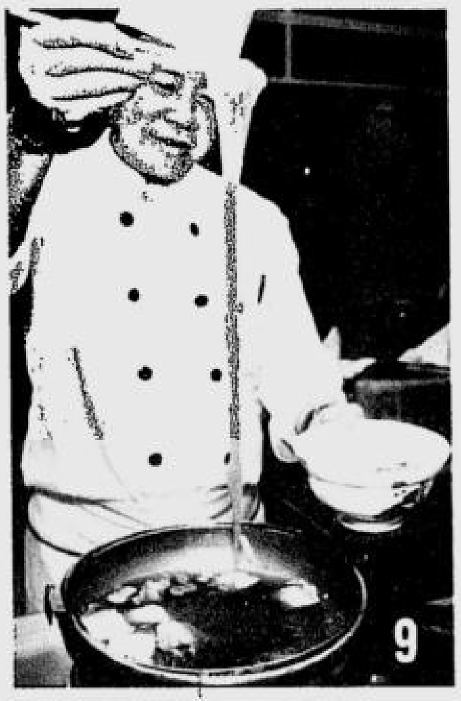
ARRANGE all your ingredients in groups on a tray for easy cooking.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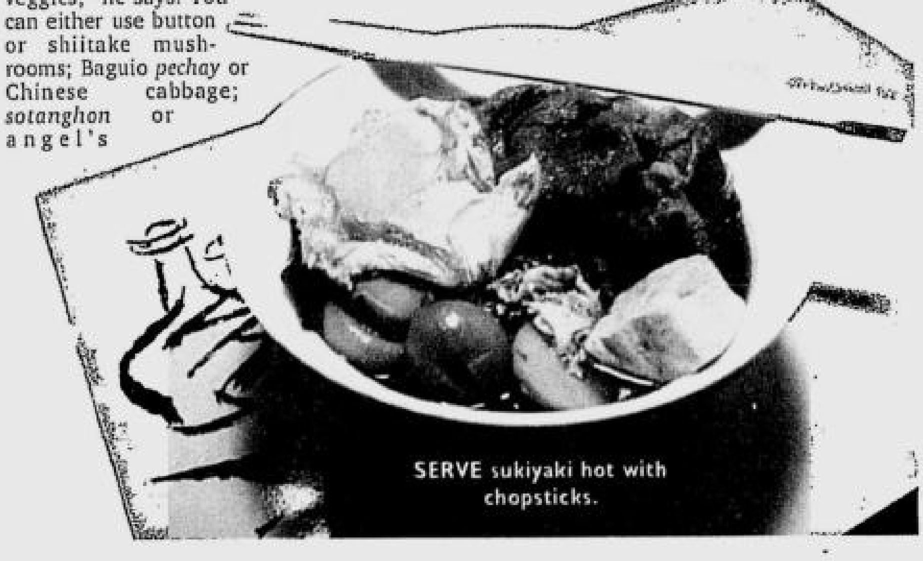
TRANSFER and arrange cooked ingredients one by one in a deep bowl and pour in the soup.


SERVE sukiyaki hot with chopsticks.

CENTER FOR ASIAN CULINARY STUDIES
CAFÉ YSABEL RESTAURANT
455 P. Guevarra Street, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 725-5089 / 726-9326
www.cafeysabel.com
Email: cafeysabel@mydestiny.net

THE PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

The Professional Culinary Arts Program prepares students for a professional entry into the food service industry. This intensive program integrates classical and modern culinary techniques with kitchen management skills. Students learn how to prepare soups, sauces, vegetables, entrees, breads, pastries and desserts. They will learn how to identify, fabricate and portion meat, poultry, fish and shellfish. The course will also provide the introductory skills on Asian cooking, wine appreciation and table service.

The program is a hands-on training series for students to gain proficiency in various skills needed to perform at professional standards in a commercial kitchen. The students will also learn to prepare buffets and formal meals. The program has Internship or In-house Practicum for 200 hours and Externship or Outside Practicum for 200 hours. Enrollment includes 2 sets of uniforms, chef's kit, manual and all the ingredients to be used.

Classes will start October 01, 2002.

THE CAREER PASTRY AND BAKING PROGRAM

This certificate program covers basic and a professional pastry, dessert and bread applications for those who seek entry into a career as professional baker, pastry shop owner or related fields in pastry, baking supplies and even overseas purposes.

This 30 session program is a hands-on training series for students to gain proficiency in various skills needed to perform at professional standards in a commercial pastry kitchen.

The program is to be handled by well-known pastry personalities with extensive experience here and abroad. This program includes chef's jacket, baking tools, manual and all the ingredients to be used.

Classes will start on November 04, 2002.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN COOKING AND BAKING SKILLS

Lessons cover all areas of basic kitchen skills: meat, fish, poultry and seafood fabrication; vegetables; pasta and other starch accompaniments and internationally accepted standards for baking. Menu planning and wine appreciation will be part of the program.

This series is intended for individuals who have no time to take a full time professional culinary program and yet would like to acquire the necessary basic skills, tools, and techniques to enable them to enter a more lucrative world of recreational and even, professional cooking and baking. This series will culminate with a lunch buffet prepared by the students and 100 hours of restaurant practicum.

The 16-day, 24 session course will be handled by working chef-restaurateurs and consultants and will be limited to 25 students. Enrollment includes ingredients, chef's jacket, manual and chef's kit.

Classes will start October 12, 2002.

Special Treat

Clean and Safe Cooking

Proper and clean preparation makes for delicious and nutritious food. Here are health tips for safe and sanitary preparation of food.

1. Wash your hands with soap and water before, during and after meal preparation.
2. Always use clean water for cooking and drinking. The most health-threatening aspects are unseen to the naked eye – bacteria that causes fatal diseases such as typhoid, cholera and amoebiasis.
3. Avoid cross-contamination of food; never let raw food come in contact with cooked food, the knife and chopping board previously used for raw food shouldn't be used to slice your fried chicken without a thorough wash in hot water and soap.
4. Protect food from flies, rats, cockroaches and other house pests. Make sure food stored in the refrigerator is in air-tight, sealed containers.
5. Keep your kitchen dry and clean. Throw garbage in containers with covers and dispose of it daily.

Recipes

PF TENDERJUICY AND POTATO SKILLET

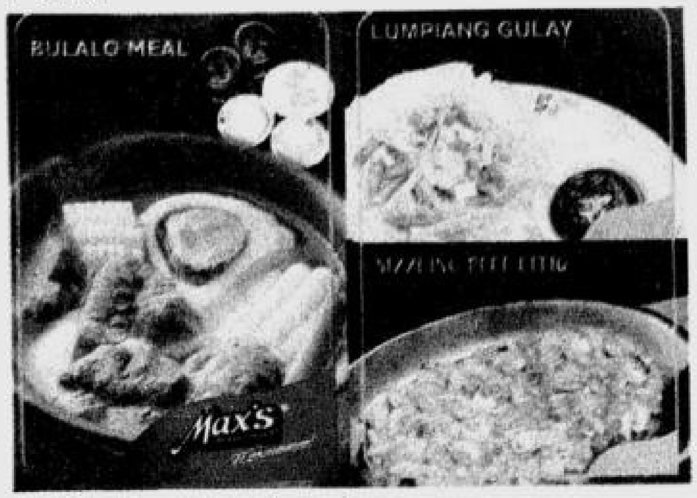
Ingredients:
¼ cup **Magnolia Butter**
1 cup diced potatoes
1 tbsp. minced garlic
1/3 cup chopped onions
7 pcs. (about 2 ½ cups) cubed **PUREFOODS BEEFIES HOTDOGS**
1 cup diced red and green bell peppers
pinch of freshly ground black pepper
1 egg
¼ cup grated **Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese**

Procedure:
Melt butter in a skillet. Pan-fry potatoes until brown and crisp. Transfer to a bowl and set aside. Using the same pan, sauté garlic and onions. Add **PUREFOODS BEEFIES HOTDOGS** and bell peppers and mix well. Cook, stirring occasionally for 10 minutes. Season with pepper. Turn off heat then stir in egg. Sprinkle fried potatoes and grated cheese on top. Cover for 1 minute or until cheese melts.
Makes 6 servings.

Flash! Flash! Flash!

The Purefoods-Hormel's TENDER JUICY HOTDOG was awarded as the **MOST OUTSTANDING HOTDOG BRAND** in 2002. This award was given by the National Consumer Affairs Foundation and the Lead-a-Life Foundation in their 2002 Joint Annual Presentation of the National Consumers Quality Awards and Handog Kay Itay Father's Day Celebration held last June 15, 2002 at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The brand was cited for product excellence and price affordability based on opinion suveys and evaluation benefiting the general public.

San Miguel Pure Foods
Purefoods Hormel
San Miguel Corporation



MAX'S Restaurant introduces three new delights. For couples, the Buffalo Meal for Two is available at only P229. It includes one *palayok* of freshly cooked hot *bulalo*, two cups of rice, two glasses of soft drinks and two *macapuno* bars. The Sizzling Beef Litid is suitable either as *pulutan* or main dish. For *merienda*, Max's offers the Lumpiang Gulay.

OUTBACK Restaurant's new Roast Pork Loin

BICOL Express

Restaurant introduces two new Aussie favorites

DINING-OUT

OUTBACK RESTAURANT offers two new "Auss'm" selections—Roast Pork Loin and Canberra Chopped Steak. Fresh vegetables and garlic mashed potatoes are served with tender slices of slow-cooked Roast Pork Loin. Peppercorn sauce or pineapple mustard glaze enhances the flavor. The Canberra Chopped Steak is a 10-oz chuck patty that's seasoned, seared and served with Outback's peppercorn sauce and fresh steamed vegetables. Visit Outback branches at Glorietta 4, Makati City; Libis, QC; and Alabang Town Center.

MANILA GALLERIA SUITES celebrates its anniversary this month with a two-week Italian Food Festival until Sept. 29. Raphael Café-Restaurant has prepared an Italian selection that includes soup of the day, different pastas, Beef Tournedos Pizza Ola, Pork Picatta with Pesto Sauce, Chicken Parmesan with Mozzarella Cheese, Tomato Sauce and Baked Cod Italianne with Fresh Tomato Sauce and Mushroom. Dessert includes Halo-Halo, Blueberry Cheesecake and Key Lime Pie. Call 633-7111 local 7416/7440.

DUSIT HOTEL highlights the best of the Bicol Region in "Spectacular Bicol!" until Sept. 29 at the Café Restaurant. Guests can taste Bicolano dishes using *pili* nut and the coconut, skillfully prepared by a Bicolano guest chef along with Dusit's expert chefs. Available for lunch and dinner at the Café are Salted Spicy Pili, Pusit Rings with Pili Dip, Blue Marlin Steak with Pili Gravy, Fried Baluko. Salads include Pili and Leafy Salad, Langka Salad in Coco Milk, Cassava Salad with Pili Nuts, Fisherman's Salad, Ubod Salad, Chayote Salad and Ensaladang Paco. Call 867-3333 local 3301 to 3303.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S Paparazzi presents tantalizing porcini mushrooms the authentic Italian way until Sept 29. Italian resident chef Giuliano Ungaro offers Porcini Salad with Almond and Parmesan Cheese/Potatoes and Porcini Gnocchi with Rucola Pesto and Tiger Prawns/Whole Wheat "Maltagliati" with Thyme Porcini and Pomegranate/Panfried Monk Fish Wrapped in Eggplant and Porcini/ Rabbit Cutlets with Porcini and Rosemary, to name a few. Call 633-8888 local 2738/2739.

CASA ARMAS, the authentic Spanish restaurant offers catering services at home or office, or hosting events at any of its branches.
Casa Armas specialties include the Cochinillo, Roast Chicken, paellas, Thanlong Crabs and delicious *tapas*. Call 897-3605/3542 (Makati) and 687-3370/3665 (Ortigas).

MAMA ROSA RESTAURANT marks its first anniversary at Eastwood City Walk with another "Oyster Shoot Out," Oct. 2, 8 p.m.-12 a.m. It features eat-all-you-can oysters and drink-all-you-can beer promos. Gift certificates and gift baskets will be raffled off. The restaurant offers, among others, Oyster Provencal, Oyster Rockefeller, Oysters with Capellini in Cream and Chives, Oysters with Taba ng Talangka, Deep-fried Oysters and Kinilaw na Oysters. Call 421-2476/2475.

Class on homemade holiday goodies

THE SAN Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center will feature young pastry chef Dennis Hipolito in a demo class that will give ideas on homemade holiday goodies.

Hipolito, an associate in baking and pastry arts graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, will share the finer points and techniques in baking. Creative yet practical cakes and pastries will be prepared using Magnolia Gold Butter and Magnolia Cream Cheese, among others. He will also show ways to package these Christmas goodies.

The course starts 1:30 p.m., Sept. 28, at the Ballroom 2 of Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City. For registration, call 671-9876 local 402 to 405, office hours, weekdays. Registration is free on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrants have to bring an empty wrapper each of Magnolia Gold Butter and Magnolia Cream Cheese to exchange for an entrance ticket.

Kitchen specialties for the holidays

DOROTHY'S Cooking School will be holding classes at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, Nestlé Building, Rockwell Center, Makati City, this coming October, featuring recipes for the holiday season.

On Oct. 1, the Kitchen Specialties 3 class will feature various spreads such as Garlic Herb Cheese Spread (Boursin), Chicken Liver Pate and Buttery Honey Orange Spread, as well as Molded Chicken Salad, Cheese Sticks and Rustic Olive Bread with Rosemary and Cheese.

On Oct. 3, a complete menu for the holidays will be featured in "Party Fare," with recipes such as Boneless Chicken Rolls with Cranberry Sauce, Roast Pork with Chunky Applesauce, Paella de Mariscos, Chunky Macaroni Soup and Peach Tart.

All classes are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuition fee for Kitchen Specialties is P800 while the tuition fee for "Party Fare" is P1000. Call 721-7735.

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Rosa Rosal

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Gloria welcomes kidnapped teachers to freedom

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Garchitorena quits Sandiganbayan post

By Michael Lim Ubac

RELIEVED Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena will "voluntarily" step down today as justice of the anti-graft court two weeks after the Supreme Court threatened him with "more severe disciplinary action" for failing to resolve his backlog of cases.

GARCHITORENA/ A17

WHAT'S INSIDE
- **IMF sees lower growth in 2003** BUSINESS /B1
- **5 soldiers killed in clash with Abus** NEWS /A7
- **RP rethinks plan to buy Taiwan jets** NEWS /A5

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, September 27, 2002 ★ 84 pages / 8 sections / vol. 17 / no. 291 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Ateneo law dean disputes SC decision

'Dissenting opinion far superior' –Bernas

By Norman Bordadora, *in Manila*
and Vincent Cabreza, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

REP. MARK JIMENEZ got an unexpected boost from one of the country's leading luminaries.

The Supreme Court decision canceling Jimenez's bail is speculative and depended too much on the premise that the lawmaker is a "flight risk," according to the dean of the Ateneo Law school, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ.

Speaking at a news briefing late yesterday, Bernas, who was a member of the 1987 Constitutional Commission, said he was in favor of letting the Manila Regional Trial Court decide on whether Jimenez should be put behind bars pending the resolution of his extradition case.

Bernas also said Justice Secretary Hernando Perez could not just order Jimenez's arrest. *(See story on this page.)*

"He should wait. Even the spokesperson of the Supreme Court (Ismael Khan) has said otherwise," Bernas said.

"The decision does not call for immediate implementation. The respondent is given 15 days from the receipt of an official copy (of the ruling) to file a motion for reconsideration, and then the Supreme Court will decide."

Asked why he thought Perez issued such a statement, the law dean said: "You have to remember that the secretary of justice is a political officer. So it could be a mixture of politics and legality."

He said the most solid opinions were those posited by the six dissenting justices of the high court, particularly those written by Associate Justices Josue Bellosillo and Reynato Puno.

"The dissenting opinions are

LEGAL/ A18

Mark Jimenez rejects bid for House custody

By Juliet L. Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

MANILA Rep. Mark Jimenez yesterday rejected a proposal that he be put in the custody of House leaders instead of behind bars in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling canceling his P1-million bail.

Jimenez likened the proposal, discussed by some of his own colleagues in the House, to a lollipop given to pacify a child. "(If I agree to it), I would be betraying Congress and my country because what I'm fighting for is the constitutional right of every Filipino to bail," he said in a phone interview.

The lawmaker wanted in the United States for alleged fraud and illegal campaign contributions described the high court's ruling as unconstitutional and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez's pronouncements as harsh.

On Wednesday, Perez directed the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold-departure order on Jimenez and said he would not hesitate to send the lawmaker to the Manila City Jail.

Yesterday, the justice secretary said that the tribunal's ruling was final and executory, and that agents of the National Bureau of Investigation's Interpol Division were now preparing to arrest Jimenez.

He ordered justice officials to get a copy of the warrant of arrest earlier issued on Jimenez by the Manila Regional Trial Court, which serves as the extradition court.

He said he had directed Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez to get a copy of the warrant through a motion that was to be filed yesterday before Presiding Judge Guillermo Purganan of the Manila RTC Branch 42.

MARK/ A18

92ND BIRTHDAY

GMA pa hard to forget

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Diosdado Macapagal—not the scandal-ridden boulevard, not the international airport at Clark, not the dam—but the country's ninth President would have been 92 years old today. And his daughter, President Macapagal-Arroyo, has made sure he's remembered.

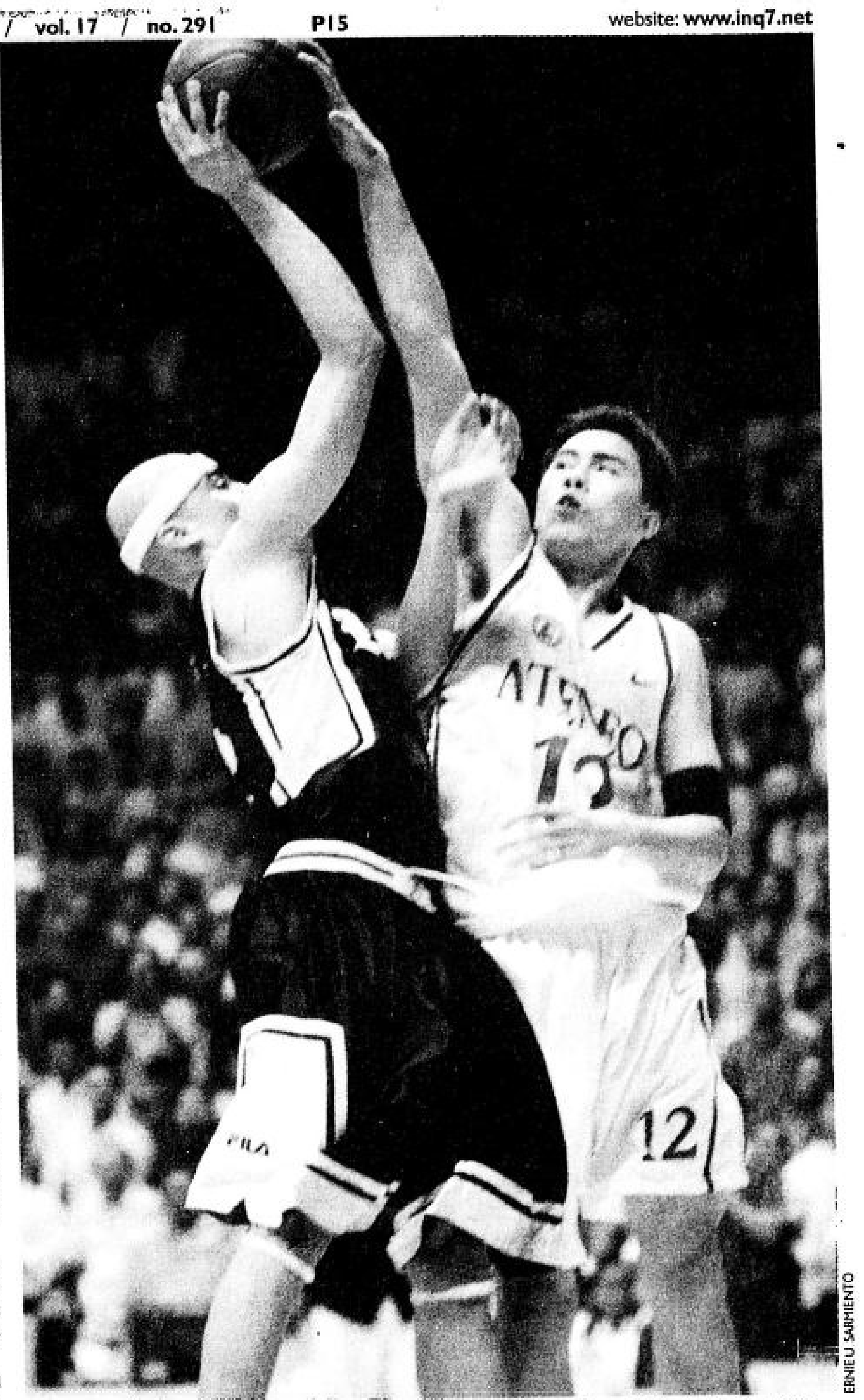
His name is now all over the place.

In Congress, there is a plan to rename the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo Road after the elder Macapagal.

Two years ago, the merging of two colleges into a proposed state university in Central Luzon would have been named "Cong Dadong," the first Kapampangan President, were it not for the protests against the merger.

After former President Macapagal's death in 1997, Pampanga officials renamed the provincial

GMA/ A17



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

LARRY Fonacier of Ateneo soars high to block what would have been the tying basket by La Salle's Mark Cardona in the dying seconds of Thursday's first game of their title series.

Avenging Eagles fly high, claw out Green Archers

By Dennis U. Eroa

ATENEO rode on a thrilling finish to subdue defending champion La Salle, 72-70, and move to within a victory of completing one of the UAAP's biggest reversal of fortunes last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Bull-strong Enrico Villanueva, playing for the fifth and final year for the Eagles, banged in Ateneo's last 10 points and Larry Fonacier had the jampacked crowd roaring in approval as he prevented the Archers from sending the game into extra time by twice rejecting Mark Cardona shots as the final buzzer sounded.

This was the first time since 1988 that Ateneo beat La Salle twice in succession and the Eagles aim to put an exclamation point to a roller-coast-

AVENGING/ A21

"TRIED AND TESTED." Whatever the formula, the four Mindanao State University teachers are free after 15 days in captivity, and President Macapagal personally welcomes them in Iligan City, from left: Luz Serate, Salvacion Mikin and Edith Bontialao. Their co-teacher Emma Karuan is in a hospital for hypertension. *(Story on Page A2)* MALACAÑANG PHOTO

KL lawyers to appeal verdict on rape of Pinay

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian government lawyers will appeal a judge's decision to acquit a police officer of raping two detained female illegal immigrants, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Star newspaper said Attorney General Abdul Ghani Patail had lodged a notice of appeal against the ruling of Sessions Court Judge Mohamed Saman Mohamed Ramli because the judge did not require the police officer, Razali Pilen, to enter a defense. No hearing date was set.

The alleged rapes, which were caught by security cameras, occurred on Feb. 24 in a room at a police station in Kuala Lumpur. The women, a 23-year-old Filipino and a 24-year-old Indonesian, were earlier arrested for working illegally in Malaysia.

Mohamed freed Razali, 25, on Monday after ruling that the women consented to have sex with him. "The sexual intercourse here seems to be voluntary, just like between husband and wife," the judge was quoted as saying by The Sun newspaper.

But women's rights groups were outraged by the ruling, saying rape victims

KL/ A20

For Nazis in love, it's Mr. Rightist

VIENNA—Lonely hearts know that the search for Mr. or Ms Right can be long and hard. If you are looking for someone who shares your Aryan race and extremist political views,

FOR NAZIS/ A20

Gov't moves to secure PEA papers

By Juliet L. Javellana, Carlito Pablo and Gerald G. Lacuarta

PUBLIC Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong's first order as officer in charge of the scandal-prone Public Estates Authority was to secure the documents of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, which is said to be overpriced by P600 million.

"We have to ensure that the properties and documents of the PEA are protected. That's the first order of the day," said Datumanong upon his arrival in the PEA office on Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, at 1:30 p.m. yesterday. He admitted that the PEA "is a stranger to me. This is not related to my department."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Palace had instructed Datumanong to "secure all the pertinent documents."

"He (Datumanong) has to make sure that all the documents are accounted for and that no documents are missing because any missing document will definitely hamper the investigation," Bunye said at his regular press briefing.

Malacañang named Datumanong OIC and general manager of the PEA after all members of the PEA board took a leave of absence on Wednesday to pave the way for an "impartial investigation" of the "overprice" of

GOV'T/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/27/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second **FRONT PAGE**

Gloria welcomes teachers to freedom

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ILIGAN CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed to freedom here yesterday the four women teachers of the Mindanao State University (MSU) who were released by their abductors Wednesday night.

Tutors Editha Bontilao, 50; Luzminda Castillon, 53; Salvacion Mikin, 55, and Emma Karaan, 43, were released by their captors, believed to be disgruntled MSU security guards, on the eve of the President's visit here to address the 2nd Mindanao Shippers' Conference at the Maria Cristina Hotel.

Ms Macapagal had come from Siargao, Surigao del Norte, where she graced the International Surfing Competition.

Except for Karaan, who was hospitalized for hypertension following their 15-day ordeal, all the hostages were presented to the President at about 2 p.m. at the tightly guarded National Steel Corp. ballfield in Barangay Suarez here.

Ms Macapagal said she was happy the teachers were safe. She asked the victims if they would continue teaching. The freed hostages nodded.

She embraced them and held the teachers' hands as she spoke to them. They all shed tears. Then the President said the teachers' release "is a good day for us."

Officials of the Lanao del Sur Crisis Management Committee said the four teachers were released at about 11 p.m. on Wednesday in Barangay Malaig in Balindong, Lanao del Sur, some 20 kilometers from Marawi City.

Gov. Mamintal Adiong created the committee, composed of civic groups, government officials, the police and the military, on Sept. 14, the day after the teachers were abducted.

Ten masked men turned over the teachers to the committee headed by Akira Alonto, Lanao del Sur provincial security chief.

The captors brought the four women in a motorboat to the middle of a lake near Marawi city and turned them over to police and government officials on another boat, the Associated Press reported.

Reunited

Social Welfare Undersecretary Omira Lucman, Alonto, Iligan City Mayor Franklin Quijano and military officials then brought the victims to the NSC guesthouse at about 2 a.m. Thursday. There they were reunited with their families.

Looking haggard and still wearing the clothes they had on when they were abducted two weeks ago, the teachers initially refused to be interviewed but later recounted how they constantly dealt with hunger and fear.

"I thought we'll never come out alive," said Castillon.

She said they were constantly moved from one house to another, blindfolded, tied up and left without food during the day. In the eerie daytime silence, they mostly cried and prayed.

At night, men in ski masks came to feed them, she said.

Regional police director Akmad Omar said the teachers were abducted on their way home from the government-run Mindanao State University in Marawi.

The kidnappers had demanded P7 million in ransom, which supposedly included the unpaid wages of 18 dismissed university guards, and the ouster of the university president, Omar said. None of the demands were met, he added.

Sources close to negotiators for the teachers' release, however, said about P200,000 was paid to the kidnappers for "board and lodging." All the abductors managed to escape.

Teachers in captivity

The kidnappings—one of many in recent months—gained national attention when GMA-7 television news last week showed footage of the teachers in captivity, tearfully pleading with Ms Macapagal and other officials for help, and trying to calm relatives by saying they were being treated well.

"We heard your pleas and responded by working double time to bring you home," Ms Macapagal told the teachers.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr. praised the military and police for the recovery of the four teachers.

"I would like to commend the soldiers and policemen for a job well done. They exerted their best efforts in rescuing the hostages without the payment of ransom," Defensor said.

Local officials said the kidnappers were former security personnel of the university who had been sacked and were demanding back pay and reinstatement. *With AP and AFP reports*

GMA: Tried and tested formula at work

By Carlito Pablo

THERE'S that vaunted "tried and tested formula" against kidnapping again.

But will it prove effective against the most notorious kidnap gang in the country, the Abu Sayyaf?

Yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo credited the formula for the safe release of the four Mindanao State University (MSU) teachers who were held for 12 days allegedly by dismissed MSU security guards seeking restitution and reinstatement.

The formula first reportedly worked in the recovery of the two children of Negros Occidental Rep. Julio Ledesma IV, who were abducted on a busy San Juan town street on the same day the tutors were kidnapped, Sept. 13.

Same formula

Malacañang apparently thinks the formula would work with the Abu Sayyaf and lead to the release of the three Indonesian seamen and four women Jehovah's Witnesses the group is currently holding separately in Sulu.

But just what is the formula?

As previously explained by police officials, and reiterated yesterday by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, it consists of three elements: community cooperation, excellent police or military work and responsible media coverage.

The formula does not make any reference to the payment of ransom because of the government's official no-ransom policy.

"If it was successful in the case of the MSU teachers, we see no reason why it should not be so in the other ongoing hostage situations," Bunye said.

The formula drew intense interest, and skepticism, after Ledesma credited it for the release of his children four days after they were seized.

Variation

Bunye even had a variation on the formula's name, referring to it as the "tried and proven formula."

But skeptics believe Ledesma paid ransom, which he has denied. In the teachers' case, local officials were said to have paid P200,000 as a "board and lodging" fee to the kidnappers for the tutors' release.

Bunye, however, admitted Malacañang had no updates on the situation of the Indonesians and the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Two of the Jehovah's Witnesses' colleagues, both male, were beheaded by the terrorist group soon after they were seized.

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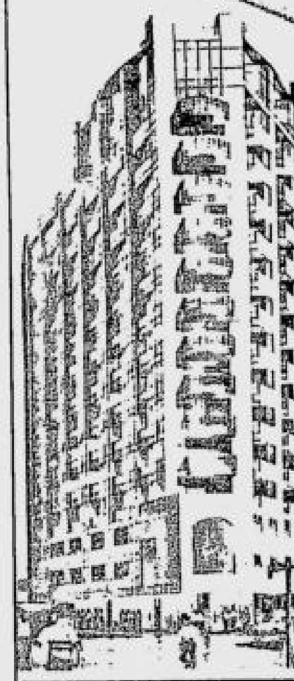

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European lawmakers want Joma out of blacklist

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands—A group of European members of parliament has asked the Dutch government to reconsider the terrorism blacklisting of Filipino communist leader Jose Maria Sison, officials said Wednesday.

Sison, who has lived in The Netherlands in self exile for 14 years, was labeled a suspected terrorist member of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military wing, the New People's Army, by US authorities.

Acting on a request from Washington, Dutch authorities froze Sison's personal bank account and his welfare benefits. They also blocked an account belonging to a Dutch-based Filipino group that facilitates peace talks between the communist rebels and the Philippine government.

On Tuesday, a group of Sison's supporters in The Netherlands delivered a letter signed by 25 members of the European Parliament to the government of Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende.

The letter expressed concern about Sison's situation and warned that classifying him and the Communist Party as terrorists jeopardizes the peace talks. Sison denies having any links to terrorists and says he is the chief consultant to the rebels in their talks with the government.

"We are also deeply concerned that Sison and his family are being deprived of housing accommodation, medical insurance and his allowance for food," the letter said.

The United States claims that Sison, 63, and the New People's Army are in contact with Muslim extremists in the Philippines.

He says he is no longer a party member, but the Dutch government claims he is still the covert leader of the anti-government guerrilla forces. *AP*

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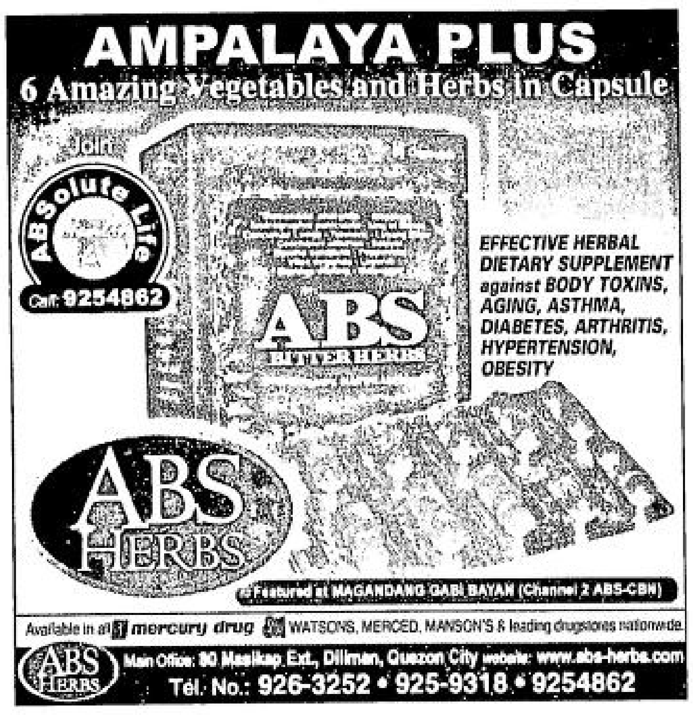

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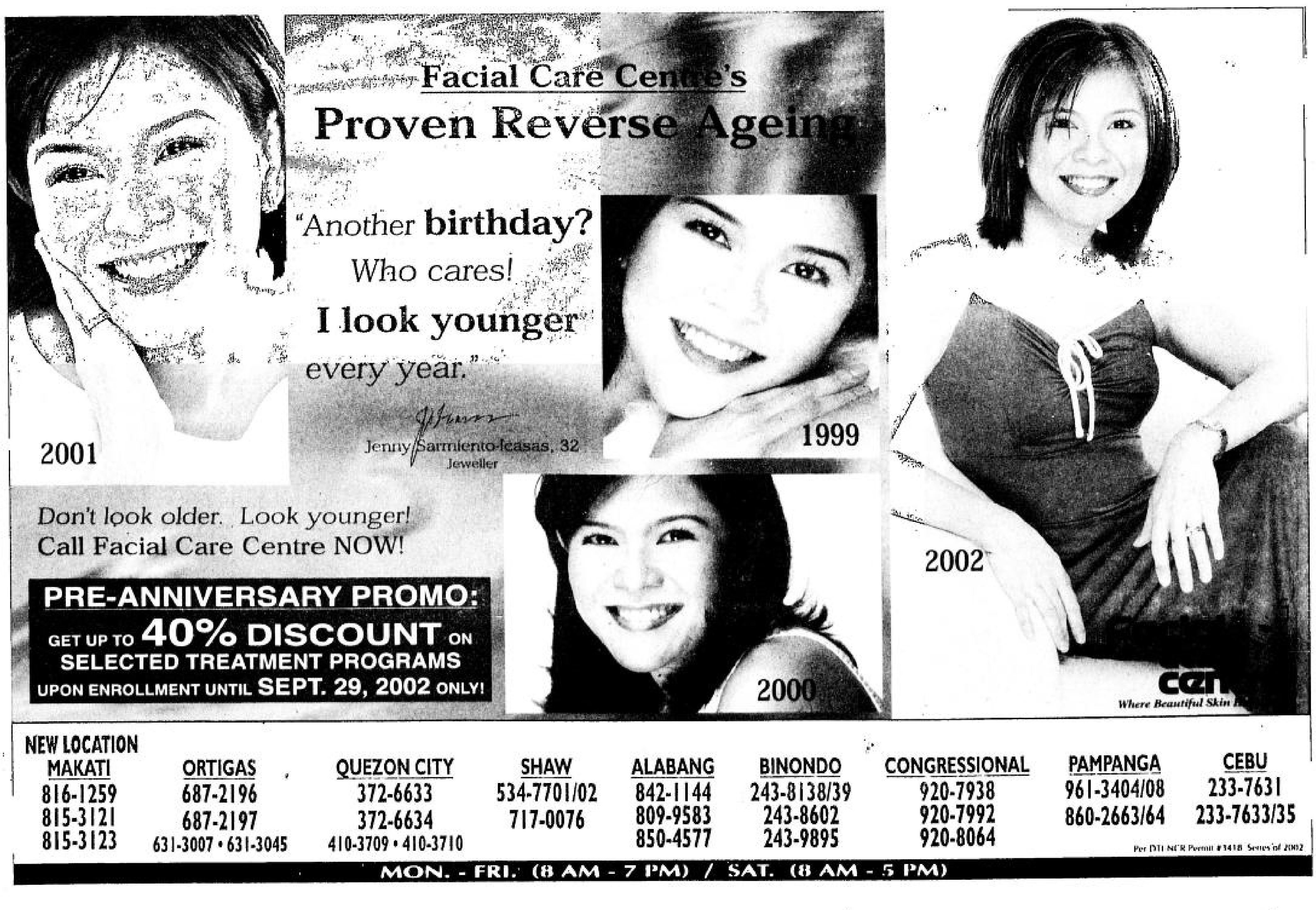

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KL probers quiz RP girl on rape

MALAYSIAN investigators yesterday interviewed a 13-year-old Filipina allegedly raped at a detention center for illegal immigrants in Sabah, the justice department here said.

The rape case and the reported deaths of at least three children during Malaysia's recent expulsion of thousands of Filipino illegals from Sabah has sparked anger in the Philippines.

The three-member Malaysian probe team interviewed the alleged victim and a witness, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez told reporters.

Senior Filipino state prosecutors and social welfare department officials accompanied the girl and the unnamed witness to the Malaysian embassy, where the interviews were conducted, Perez added.

"I instructed them (Filipino officials) to monitor (the interview) and to see to it that the rights of the child are protected. The Malaysian police proceedings went well," Perez said.

The girl had complained to Filipino authorities that she was raped by Malaysian policemen before she was expelled along with hundreds of other Filipinos as part of a Malaysian crackdown against "illegals." *AFP*

GLORIA AND ADVERTISERS
Officers and members of board of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) make a courtesy call to President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Malacañang Palace to discuss the important role of advertisers in the economy in celebration of Advertisers Month. Present during the cocktail and dinner reception were, from left, PANA executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, auditor Emilio L. Samson of McDonald's Philippines, PRO Jones T. Campos of Globe Telecoms, director Fortunato D. Babasa of The Andersons Group, President Macapagal-Arroyo, president Carminia B. Rodriguez of Citibank, N.A., board secretary Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva, Inc. and director Elizabeth B. Flores of Ott Louie Philippines.

Bishops hit GMA on tribefolk's rights

A COMMISSION organized by Catholic bishops yesterday assailed President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly failing to safeguard the rights of indigenous people and tribal groups in this country.

The Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples, organized by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said in a statement that indigenous groups faced "uncertainty of ownership and control of ancestral domain," as well as dislocation by infrastructural projects.

These groups also suffer from lack of basic social services, the commission said.

The implementation of a law on indigenous people's rights has also been spotty because it has often been found to conflict with other laws, the commission said in a statement.

The body also charged that the government's actions on behalf of indigenous groups amounted to mere "tokenism." *AFP*

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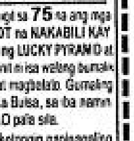

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Sept. 29, Sun.	9:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.	Main Service
Sept. 30, Mon.	6:30-8:00	Business Banquet
Oct. 1, Tue.	8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 7:00-9:00 p.m.	School of Leadership Evening Service

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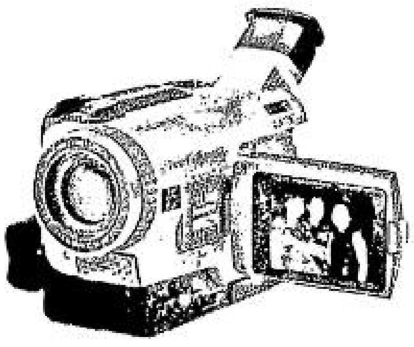

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APPEASING CHINA

RP rethinks plan to buy Taiwan jets

By TJ Burgonio

CAREFUL not to antagonize his visitor from China, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday hinted that the military would shelve a purported plan to buy used fighter jets from Taiwan.

At a joint briefing with visiting Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian at AFP Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Reyes said this was necessary to maintain the Philippines' "one-China policy."

Chi arrived in Manila on Tuesday for a five-day goodwill visit.

"The visit of Defense Minister Chi accorded the Philippine government the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to a one-China policy," Reyes said, after he was asked about the military's reported plan to purchase F-5E fighter jets from Taiwan.

Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Nestor Santillan, for his part, sought to sidestep questions about the Taiwanese jets.

"What the Air Force is looking for are interim fighter aircraft. And we're looking at all possible sources. There are lots of countries offering F-5s," he said.

Considering other offers

When asked if the military would still consider Taiwan's offer to sell its fighter jets, Santillan said: "We're considering all offers."

At another point, he said: "I'm not saying that we're buying jets from Taiwan."

The military had earlier disclosed plans to buy used F-5E fighter jets from other countries, including Taiwan, to form the core of the Philippine Air Force's interim fighter fleet.

But days before Chi's visit, new AFP chief of staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor said the military was looking "all over the world," not at Taiwan, to buy F-5Es.

Senators get lewd photos from sex cult

SENATORS have asked the National Bureau of Investigation to go after the head of a Negros Occidental sex cult who sent their offices a manifesto and copies of lewd photographs showing young men and women in various sex acts.

Lawyer Richard J. Nethercott, legal officer of Sen. Robert Jaworski, wrote NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco seeking appropriate action on the letter and photos sent to the Senate by a certain Leonardo C. Erobas, head of the "Espedeject Ideology: Global One Man Rule Program."

The manifesto, written in Ilonggo, was accompanied by 10 photos of men and women in various sexual positions.

The back of the photos indicated that the young women were 16 to 17 years old.

In his manifesto, Erobas said sex with younger people and public nudity will cleanse the soul.

Erobas listed his addess as Purok Casanag, Mandalgan, Bacolod City.

"Ninoy Aquino entered the body of Leonardo Erobas," the manifesto declared.

Erobas likewise named himself as "the trampool man, the new term (for the) above genius Kurukokok ruler, author, scientist, creator, founder, inventor, journalist, writer, maker, super being."

In a statement, Senate majority leader Loren Legarda-Leviste also asked the NBI "to investigate the members of a cult in Negros Occidental propagating a 'sex-bomb' idealogy in the country."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who received the photographs said Erobas had the "gall to send me indecent pictures which are not only immoral but possibly criminal in nature because some of the sexual participants are minors."

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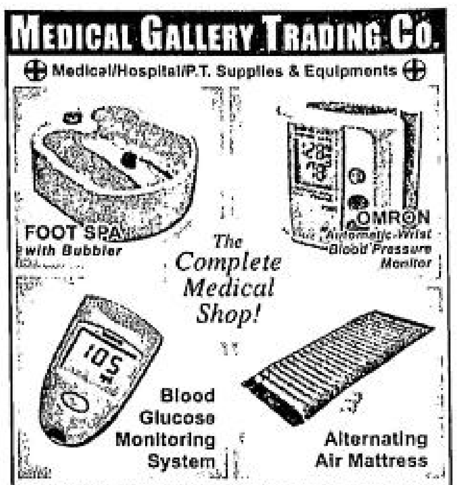
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Print ads confirm Meralco overpricing, says Enrile

YOU catch the fish through its mouth.

With this remark, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday said the full-page print advertisements of Meralco and First Gas, both owned or managed by the Lopez family,

confirmed his charges of overpricing and other consumer abuses.

Enrile thanked the Lopezes for confirming in public the "very basis for my worst fears regarding their 'sweetheart' contracts."

The former senator turned consumer protection advocate explained that First Gas and Meralco confirmed allegations of overpricing by openly admitting that the Meralco-First Gas contract contained the one-time escalations that resulted in an increase of 18.8 percent or P31.42 billion in their capacity charges.

Enrile said contrary to First Gas assertions, it is not true that such disadvantageous escalations are common to International Power Purchase agreements.

Meralco trick

In fact, Enrile explained, it "appears to be a trick to make the power charge look competitive at the time when they were securing approval of the Energy Regulatory Board to escalate power charges only at the projects completion."

Enrile said most of Napocor's IPP contracts are with international companies and lenders. These price escalation clauses are not in any of Napocor's contracts.

Enrile said its inclusion in the contracts only means that the Lopezes increased the project costs to impose a heavier burden on the public.

Enrile said that while First Gas is, in general, denying that they have benefited from the fuel charging schemes like the minimum tale-or-pay provision on fuel and the 4 percent metering tolerance, they have not really denied the existence of these "sweetheart" provisions in their IPP contracts.

Sweetheart provisions

"I challenge them to delete these 'sweetheart' provisions as a show of good faith," Enrile said.

The former senator said that, while Meralco and First Gas can present arguments regarding their heat rates, the fact is that the buying prices that they pass on to the Meralco consumers from their own IPPs are higher than Napocor's by one peso.

"I don't understand why they continue to hoodwink the public into thinking that their IPPS are beneficial in costs to their franchise area," Enrile said.

Enrile said the Lopezes claimed that First Gas Power cost is P3.53 per KWH and Quezon Power is P3.86 per KWH against P4 KWH from Napocor. But the truth, is their real cost would be P 4.51 per KWH if their plants are fully utilized at 83 percent, Enrile said.

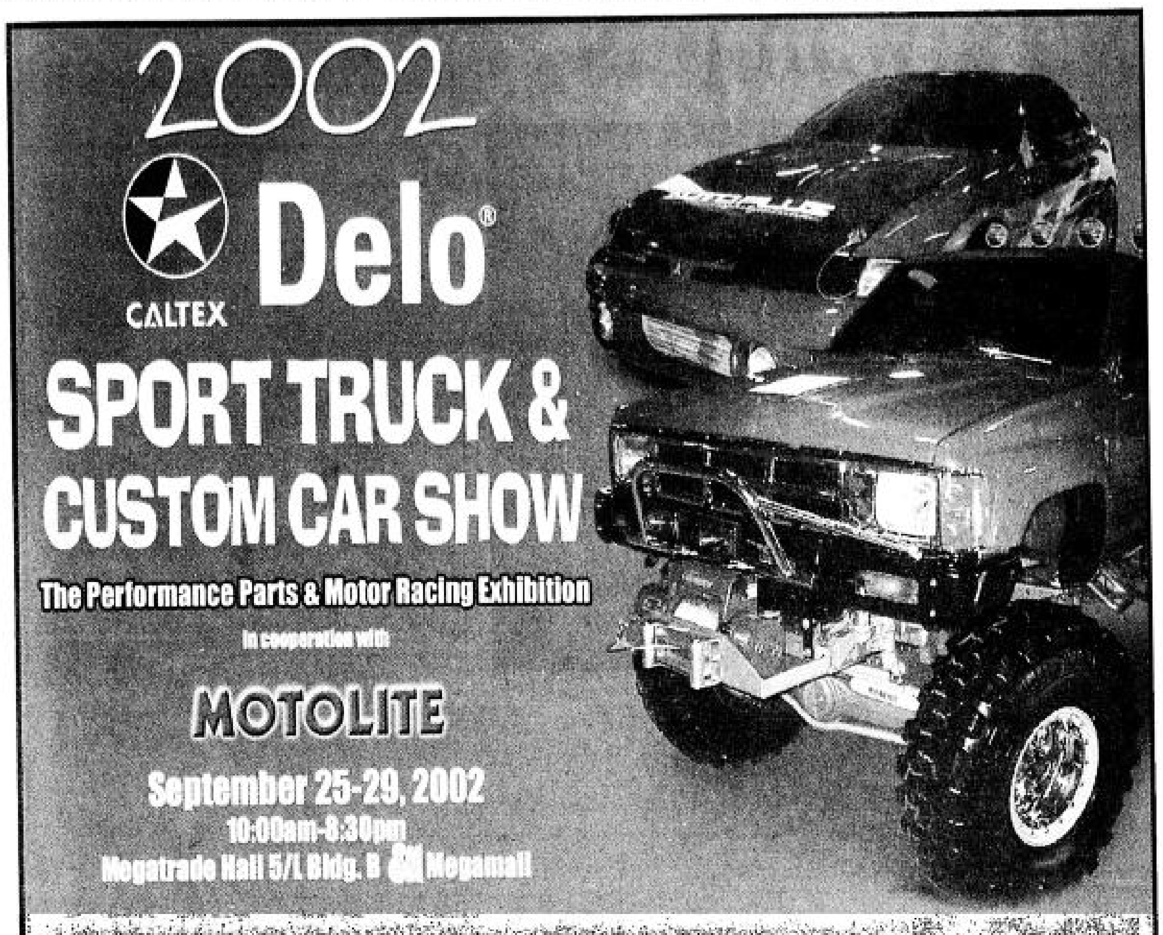
He explained that Meralco-First Gas are not comparing apples-to-apples. Their claimed costs is only ex-plant basis. They still must add the transmission costs and the ancillary services like standby power which, when added up, total P4.51 per KWH, he said.

DOE chief sees steady power rates

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez said yesterday he expects electricity rates to remain steady despite fears of a US war against Iraq.

Rising oil prices are threatening Asian economies and jeopardizing growth in Europe and the US.

Perez said the government was making efforts to avoid overdependence on the fuel as a source of energy and instead use local power sources such as coal.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September 25 Opening Ceremonies 10:30AM
September 25-27 Judging Dates (Open Class Competition) 10:00AM-8:30PM
September 28 Awarding Ceremonies 5:00PM

Seminar Schedule:

September 25 (Wednesday)
- Hit the Trail... Tips On How to Set-up, What to take, Driving Techniques By: Landcruiser Club of the Philippines 3:30-5:00PM
- How to Get Started in Circuit Racing By Sports Values Inc 5:00-6:30PM
- How to Get Started in Motorsports Through Karting By. Mike Potenciano (Speed) 6:30-8:00PM

September 26 (Thursday)
- Guidelines in Customizing Cars By Automobile Assn. of the Philippines 3:30-5:00PM
- Basics in Slalom Racing By. Race Motorsports Club 5:00-6:30PM
- Essential Equipment of 4x4's By. Manila Off Roaders Inc. in cooperation with Caltex Delo 6:30-8:00PM

September 27 (Friday)
- "Race the Strip Not the Streets" (Anti-Street Racing Campaign Launching) By. Phil Drag Racing Familysport 10:30-1:30PM
- Basics in Slalom Racing By Race Motorsports Club 2:00-3:30PM
- How to Get Started in Circuit Racing By Sports Values Inc. 3:30-5:00PM
- Advance Racing Techniques By Mike Potenciano (Speed) 5:00-6:30PM
- How to Get Sponsors for a Team & Event By Mike Potenciano (Speed)

September 28 (Saturday)
- Anti-Kidnap Driving By Control Risks 2:00-3:30PM
- The Basics of 4x4 Racing By: National Association of Filipino Off Roaders in cooperation with Caltex Delo 3:30-5:00PM

September 29 (Sunday)
- Classic Watches for the Car Enthusiast By Manila Sports Car Club 2:00-2:30PM
- Car Rally By Trevor Briggs 2:30-3:30PM
- Making Motorsports a Career By JP Tuason (Tuason Racing School) 5:00-6:30PM
- Airbrush Demonstration By Eric Umali 6:30-8:00PM

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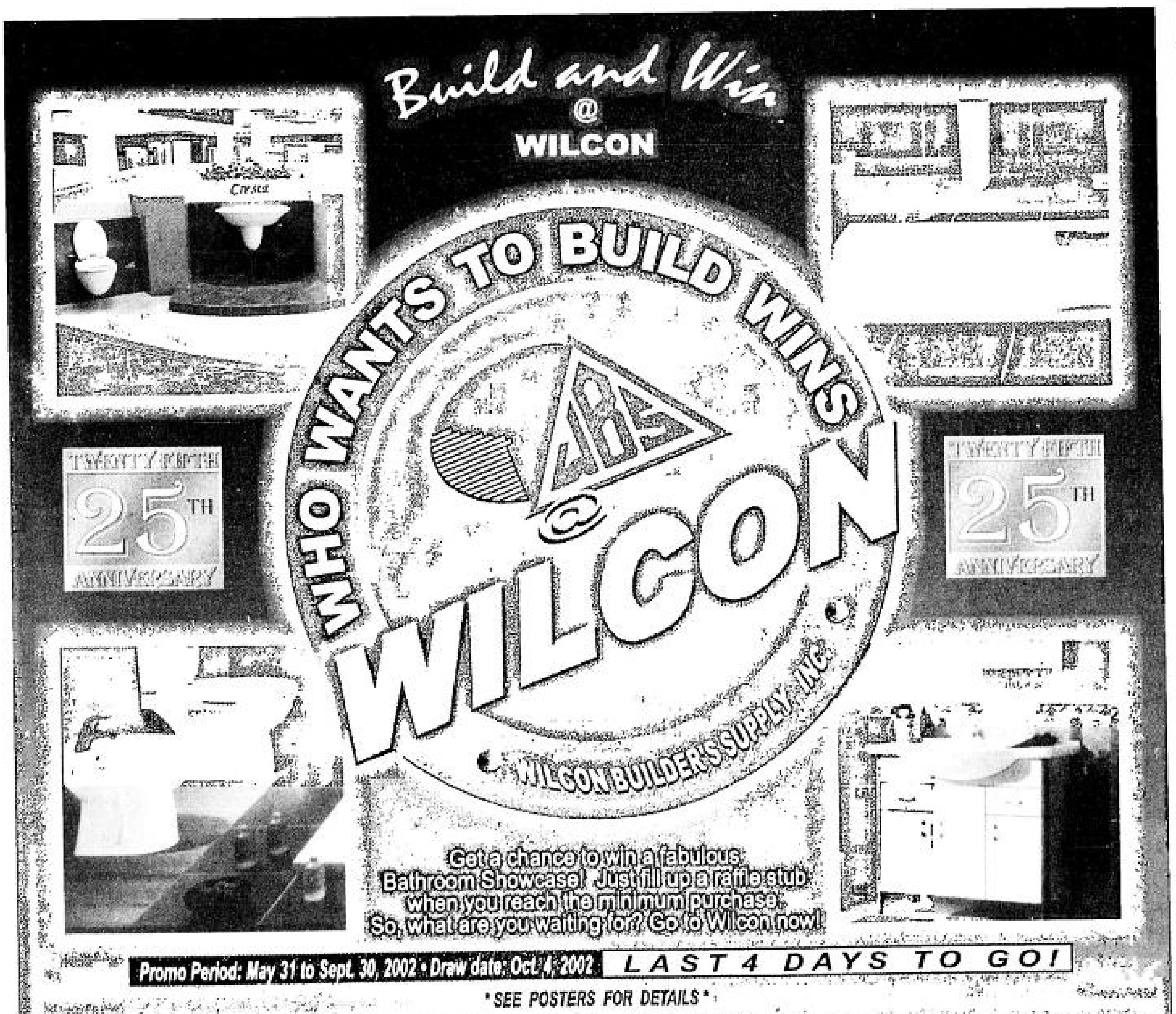
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B. Audited Financial Statement for last two years (latest available)
C. Security Exchange Commission Accreditation Documents/Accreditation to other relevant Government Agencies
D. Organization Chart
  1.1 Manpower Count (with names of Directors and Electrical Engineers)
  1.2 Vehicle Count
  1.3 Tools and equipment available
E. Name and professional background of Registered Electrical Engineer(s) who will manage/supervise execution of the project
F. List of projects completed including year and project cost
G. Whether firm is registered with Meralco, Philippine Government or its Agencies concerned with electric works

Embassy reserves the right to reject any bid without assigning any reasons. Tender Form/Project Details will be supplied only to the firms short-listed on the basis of this notice.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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Saudi OFWs press Congress on absentee voting bill

By Isagani Yambot
Publisher

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia—The overseas Filipino workers in the Western Region of this country are threatening to withhold the remittance of their salaries to the Philippines to force Congress to pass the absentee voting bill.

The Jeddah Coalition on Overseas Voting Rights said that to pressure Congress to approve the bill they also plan:

To file a case before the Supreme Court to compel Congress to pass the measure.

To hold peaceful demonstrations in front of Congress and write letters to congressmen and senators.

To postpone planned vacations in the Philippines.

To campaign among members of their families and their communities not to elect representatives, senators and presidential candidates who oppose absentee voting.

Leaders of the Jeddah coalition disclosed their plans in a recent meeting with a visiting Philippine media delegation. They represent an estimated 280,000 Filipino workers in the Western Region that includes the Jeddah area.

Francis Oca of Saviola Co., member of the Overseas Filipino Workers Net, said that they planned to carry out the "remittance boycott" in the last three months of this year if the absentee voting bill is not passed.

Oca said that they would remit it to their families just enough money to cover their basic needs or only about one-third of their monthly salaries.

The OFW leaders offhand could not give an estimate of the total amount involved in the "remittance boycott" and postponement of vacations in the Philippines, but some said it could easily run into millions of dollars. The remittances of OFWs are a major factor that is keeping the distressed Philippine economy afloat.

Amir Llanera, who has been working in Saudi Arabia for the past 21 years, said that they were asking their lawyers to prepare a case for filing before the Supreme Court.

Gerry Cuares of the Jeddah Association of Engineers and Architects deplored that 15 years after the Constitution mandated absentee voting, Congress had not passed a law to provide for such a system.

Because absentee voting is mandated by the Constitution, it should have priority allocation over non-mandated items in the preparation of the national budget, the coalition said.

5 soldiers slain in clash with Abu

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least five military personnel were confirmed dead and several, including a Navy officer, remained missing as clashes resumed in Sulu between government troops and the Abu Sayyaf terror group.

The most recent clash occurred early yesterday morning in Patikul town between the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion under Lt. Col. Renato Padua and Abu Sayyaf gunmen led by Radulan Sahiron.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the 104th Infantry Brigade based in Sulu, said the Scout Rangers were patrolling in the area when they encountered about 25 bandits.

Intense fighting followed, resulting in the wounding of three soldiers, two of whom died while being evacuated to a military hospital. They were not identified.

Aleo said that as of press time, a firefight was still raging in the area.

On Wednesday morning, three members of the elite Navy SWAG team, died after they were ambushed by a group of armed men on Tapul Island, which is about six nautical miles from Sulu.

Aleo said a retrieval team has managed to recover only one body.

He said four Navy personnel, including Lt.sg Christopher Apollo Teves, remained missing.

Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri told the INQUIRER the armed men belonged to the group of Tapul Vice Mayor Jamil Alas, whose brother was killed in the encounter.

Jikiri said he believes a misunderstanding between Alas' group and the Navy men triggered the Tapul clash.

"The SWAG team had barely landed when the armed men shelled them. A mortar shell landed in the boat, killing three men on the spot," he said. *Julie S. Alipala and Edwin General, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Palace finds plane repair cost too high

BUNYE

MALACAÑANG has found outrageous the demand for $3 million for the repair of a presidential twin-engine Fokker jet.

It said it wants an independent expert to appraise the cost of repair before it pays anything.

"As soon as the correct cost is established or determined by the independent appraiser, the government will pay," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

The government has sued Fokker Services Asia Ltd. and Seal Aircraft Industries Inc. for foreclosing the aircraft, which is in Singapore.

The repair on the two engines was however done in Dallas, Texas last year.

A dispute arose on the extent and cost of repairs.

Bunye said the government wants the appointment of an independent expert to appraise the cost of repairs.

The case is pending before the Parañaque Regional Trial Court.

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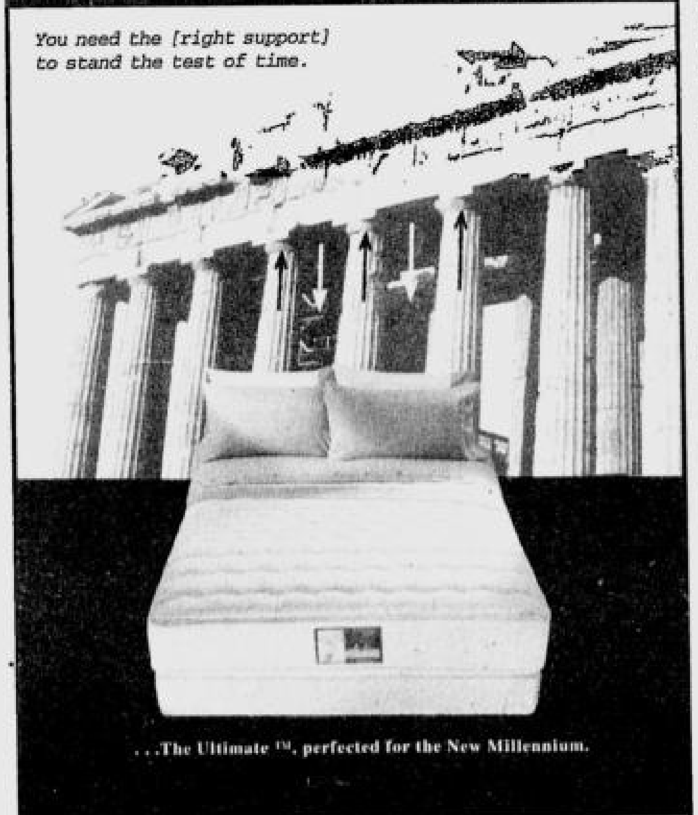

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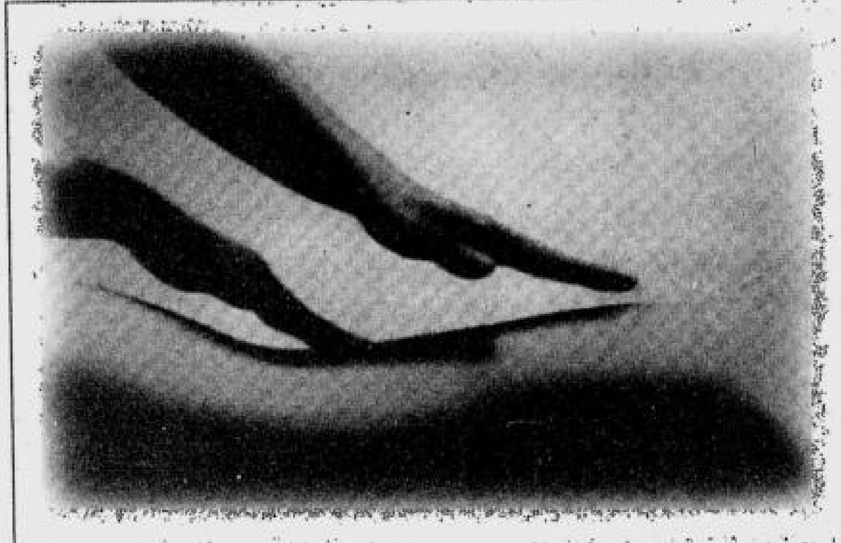

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2002

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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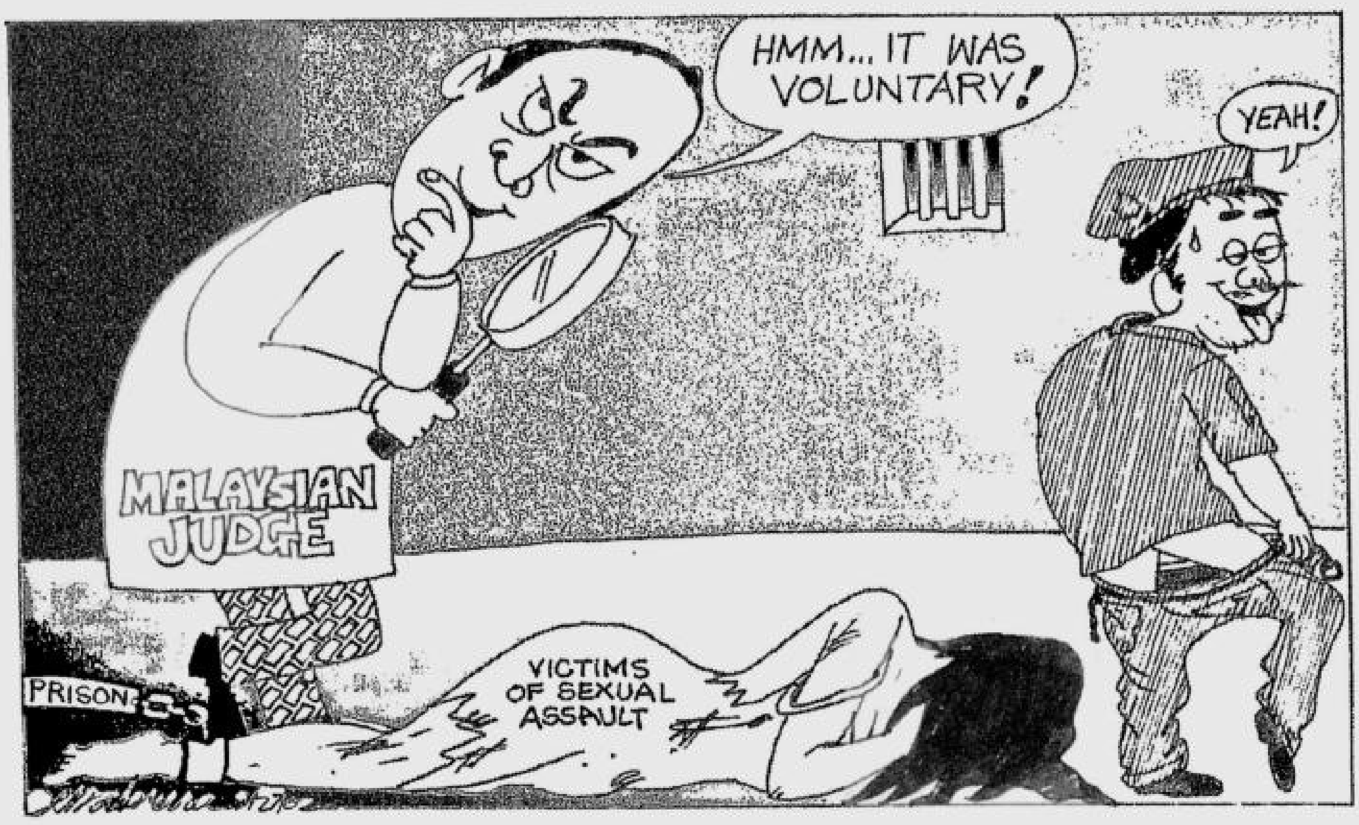


Arrogance

EDITORIAL

THE SUPREME Court justices who voted to cancel the bail of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez risk impeachment, some members of the House of Representatives have said. Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales denounced the Court's ruling issued last Tuesday as an exercise in "judicial tyranny" and said this was "an invitation to impeachment." Senior Deputy Majority Leader Francisco Escudero warned that unless the Court reversed its ruling it should prepare for a "showdown" with Congress.

Why are these honorable lawmakers threatening to bring down the wrath of the entire Congress upon a co-equal branch of the government? For one thing, they said, the Court has violated the Constitution by denying Jimenez the right to post bail. For another, the Court's ruling would deprive Jimenez's constituents of representation in the lawmaking body. And finally, this decision violates the sepration of powers among the three branches of the government.

Let's forget the blabbermouths like Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay who has no formal training in law but now presumes to possess a knowledge of law that is superior to that of the members of the Supreme Court. But Gonzales, who is a lawyer, and others who care enough to make sense in their public pronouncements should take time to study the decision before taking any action that could trigger a constitutional crisis. The effort may yet lead them to the discovery that the Court has addressed satisfactorily the very issues they are raising.

"The constitutional right to bail is available only in criminal proceedings," the Court pointed out. Extradition is not even a judicial process but an "executive responsibility arising out of the presidential power to conduct foreign relations." Its purpose is to restore a person charged or convicted of a crime to a jurisdiction "with the best claim to try that person." Thus, in extradition proceedings, granting bail is "subject to judicial discretion."

Unfortunately for Jimenez, who has been charged before a US federal court with 44 counts of illegal campaign contributions, conspiracy to defraud the US government, mail fraud and making false statements, the Supreme Court found him to be a "flight risk." "He has demonstrated the capacity and the will to flee," the Court noted, obviously referring to his escape from the United States to evade prosecution.

In answer to the argument that the people of his district would be deprived of representation, the Court said in effect that his constituents have only themselves to blame for it. They knew he was already being sought by the US government when he ran for office and so "they should have been prepared for the consequences," the Court said.

In fact, Jimenez's bid for a congressional seat last year was widely seen not as an answer to a call to public service but an attempt to shield himself against prosecution. He thought election to Congress would put him beyond the reach of the law. By trying to oblige him, some members of the House are turning the legislature into a refuge of fugitives from justice.

No one is deceived by the loud protestations of Jimenez's defenders that his constituents will lose representation. This has happened many times in the past for reasons as varied as death and criminal conviction, like that of Romeo Jalosjos for rape, and Congress hardly felt the loss. Besides, Congress has the power to remedy the situation through the relatively simple expedient of authorizing the holding of special elections. So what are these congressmen crying about?

They say the Court has violated the separation of powers. How so? If anyone is violating this principle, it is none other than the congressmen themselves. The function of Congress is to make laws. The function of the courts is to interpret the laws of the land. The Supreme Court has decided on a question of law. Some congressmen are questioning its ruling and superimposing their own interpretation of constitutional rights and treaty obligations. So who is encroaching on whose functions? Who is violating the separation of powers? And these congressmen have the arrogance to threaten justices with impeachment?

The 'terrible triplets': Piatco, Impsa, PEA

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

A FRIEND observed that if there is a "dynamic duo" in comic magazines, Batman and Robin, we have the "terrible twins" in government projects. The Piatco and Impsa contracts are twins in the sense that they have many things in common, he said. I should say we have "terrible triplets" if we include the Public Estates Authority's (PEA) President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard (PDMB) which also has much in common with the first two.

My friend counted the ways Piatco and Impsa are similar.

1. Both projects span three administrations. The PEA's overpriced project spans two.

2. The Piatco (Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc.) contract for the construction, maintenance and operation of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (like the PDMB, another unfortunately named project) and the contract with Impsa (Industrias Mettallurgicas Pescarmona Sociedad Anomina) for the rehabilitation of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) power plant complex were hatched during the Ramos administration. The PEA's PDMB project was hatched during the Erap administration.

3. Erap, succeeding Ramos, showed special interest in the first two projects. President Macapagal-Arroyo showed special interest in the PEA project. The road, originally named Central Avenue, was renamed President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

4. The implentation of all three projects went into high gear under GMA.

5. Erap's interest in the Piatco deal is manifested in the amendments and supplements surreptitiously inserted in the original contract during FVR's time. Those insertions precisely made the contract onerous, as was realized belatedly by GMA. The amended contract was signed by Transportation Secretary Vicente Rivera Jr., formerly the personal pilot of President Diosdado Macapagal.

6. In the Impsa contract, negotiations were undertaken under Ramos but the contract could not be closed because of technical and legal questions raised by rival private companies, the concerned government agencies and government engineers. However, the contract was signed under Erap's watch, even if the technical and legal questions were unresolved.

7. The contract for the PEA's road project was awarded during Erap's time but cost overruns were approved by the current board directors, appointed by GMA.

8. Even as the Impsa contract was already signed, the CBK project could not be implemented because key Erap officials refused to toe the line. Erap's economic managers—notably former Finance Secretaries Edgardo Espiritu and Titoy Pardo, and former Neda Secretary Philip Medalla—questioned the "performance undertaking" clause under which the government would assume Impsa's debt and reimburse Impsa's capital investments should the contract, for any reason, be terminated.

9. In its recent series on power sector controversies, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) exposed Erap's efforts to get the CBK project going even as he sensed his impending fall. The PCIJ reported that two Erap henchmen—crony and now Rep. Mark Jimenez and former Ambassador to Argentina Carlos Villa Abrile—frantically linked up with GMA's forces as Edsa II was at its height.

10. Curiously, the first major act of the GMA takeover administration was to give the green light for the implementation of the Impsa contract. On Jan. 24, 2001, just two days after Erap was deposed, Hernando Perez, who had yet to take his oath as justice secretary, issued a sweeping ruling removing all legal obstacles to the implementation of the contract. What the Ramos and Estrada administrations could not resolve in eight years, Perez settled in just two days.

11. In the PEA road project, it was a member of the board of directors who exposed the overpricing of the road by P600 million.

12. Protest and objections against the Impsa contract escalated but, as in the Piatco case, these were ignored by Malacañang. But with GMA finally, although belatedly, open-minded on the Piatco deal with the public interest in mind, and now immediately ordering the investigation of the PEA project, the people now expect her to attend to the Impsa controversy which she has also been ignoring.

13. It is unbelievable that GMA could ignore the CBK project considering that these are not mere allegations but facts backed by expert testimony and official documents.

14. For instance, Meritec Ltd. of New Zealand, contracted by the Department of Energy to conduct an audit of the CBK project, pointed out in its report that Impsa is charging capital recovery fees which are "excessive in relation to the amount of capital that the contractor has invested." As revealed by the second part of the Meritec report—which Energy Secretary Vince Perez kept secret until he was cornered into admission by the media that the government stands to pay about $80 million for the rehabilitation of Kalayaan on which Impsa would invest less than $10 million.

15. The latest anomaly in the Impsa deal concerns CBK Power Corp., the Argentine contractor's local subsidiary, which is handling the $450-million project. According to its 2001 balance sheet submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission, it has only about P14 million in assets and only P1.357 million cash on hand. How can it finance such an expensive project?

Irony

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IRONICALLY, in the end it was the United States that would help Gerhard Schroeder snatch another term as chancellor of Germany.

It was a remarkable turn of events, and a bitter pill for Stoiber to swallow. Only a few months ago, Stoiber was leading Schroeder by a mile. Schroeder had won his first term in 1998 with the promise that he would bring Germany's unemployment level from over 4 million to 3.5 million people. It hadn't happened. Stoiber had hammered on the point like a dog refusing to let go of a bone. Schroeder had developed such a bunker mentality, commentators would say, he would take issue with such silly things as the accusation he had dyed his hair.

Then suddenly came the crippling floods, which ravaged a good deal of the eastern part of Germany. People would wonder later why Stoiber never saw it as an opportunity to shine. Schroeder, who better understood the power of image, did, and by climbing down into knee-deep waters in the east succeeded in climbing up from the knee-deep waters his own campaign had been mired in. The footages of him wading in the mud, going from house to house to comfort the afflicted projected someone who was on top of things. Overnight, his ratings soared.

That, however, would not have been enough to allow him to overtake Stoiber. The floods had come months before Election Day and could have been drowned, so to speak, by other issues. But again it was Schroeder who raised an issue that gripped the public imagination. He vowed in his debate with Stoiber on TV not to join America in its impending war on Iraq. While Stoiber flip-flopped, saying he would weigh the matter against Germany's half-century of special friendship with America, Schroeder spoke categorically: He would not support an American attack on Iraq.

He repeated it again and again in the campaign and drew loud applause each time he did. Stoiber would try to cut back on his losses by saying he too would not support a unilateral American attack on Iraq. Unless it had a UN sanction, he said, he would not allow the United States to use its bases in Germany for the purpose. Someone would inform him later that he could not do that under Germany's bases agreement with the United States.

An editor of Der Spiegel would give us an appreciation of what it meant for Schroeder to commit himself to that position. Germany has had a culture of pacifism over the last half century as a result of the horror of the last war. No small thanks to the United States, which made sure no Hitler would rise from the rubble of National Socialism again. Schroeder himself had come under fire from his party, the SPD, and their coalition partner, the Green Party, for his earlier blanket endorsement of America's war on Afghanistan—his articulated position was "unlimited support" for the US initiative there.

The Red-Green coalition, which is how the SPD-Green Party alliance is called, nearly fell apart because of it. The head of the Green Party, Joschka Fischer, is the minister of foreign affairs. He also happens to be the most popular public figure in Germany, who however will never become chancellor because he belongs to a minority party. (I asked one speaker if party-switching was unheard of in Germany, and he answered it wasn't, but Fischer's strongest point, his credibility, would suffer if he bolted the Green Party for another one. But that is another story.)

The majority of Germans, probably 80 percent of them, do not want war. Certainly, not a war on Iraq. Schroeder tapped into a deep vein in the German body politic when he spoke against it, but it was not without its consequences. German-American relations, not unlike Philippine-American relations, go very deep, and many Germans cannot hear "Marshall Plan," in the same way that many Filipinos cannot hear "MacArthur," without becoming teary-eyed. Schroeder's position on Iraq was a bold, and risky move, but it paid off.

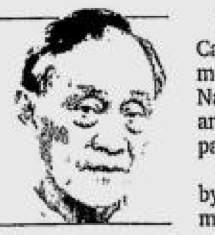
The Americans of course are pissed, and several American public officials have already expressed on CNN their displeasure over what they describe as Schroeder's "win at all cost" electoral strategy. US-German cooperation, they say, has never been a campaign issue, it is a sacred thing. Schroeder broke taboo by making it so. What these officials have not explained, however, is how something so sacred could possibly be built on so little public acceptance. Schroeder himself has said he wished to preserve Germany's deep friendship with America, but that true friendship was not based on surrender, it was based on one being able to say no to a friend on grounds of principle. It's a point we would do very well to reflect on.

Stoiber did manage to rally toward the end of the campaign, in part by driving home the unemployment issue through sheer *kulit* and in part by playing the immigration card. He vowed to tighten up Germany's immigration policies (Schroeder's policy is to lure in highly skilled immigrant labor to Germany with the offer of green cards), which had allowed the rightist extremist Jospin to make a startling surge in France some time ago. He drew even with Schroeder, and made the elections the most suspenseful one in Germany since the war. Schroeder has come out on top, but only by the skin of his teeth. And he has gotten a majority only because of the unexpectedly strong showing of the Green Party—the pre-election rallies had them getting not more than 6 percent of the votes; they ended up taking 9 percent, leaving Stoiber's junior partner, the liberals, biting the dust. The Greens have in fact become the real story in the elections, a development fraught with profound implications for the future of European politics, and that of the world.

But that, too, is another story. And an even bigger one.

EU specially interested in Austrian elections

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

VIENNA—The Social Democratic-Green alliance in Germany, led by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, was returned to power on Sunday with the smallest majority in the history of post-war German elections. Its survival against the strong electoral challenge of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union ended the trend toward the center-right in continental Europe during the past 17 months.

Situated in the heart of Europe as the third largest economy in the world,Germany's elections are seen as a bellwether of ideological shift of politics on the continent. Following the elections, eyes are now turned to Austria over whether the survival of the Socialist regime in Berlin will roll back the conservative tide in Vienna. A German-speaking nation, which was annexed by Hitler to the Third Reich, Austria tends to be influenced by electoral shifts in Germany. The young Hitler spent many years in Vienna as a struggling painter before he transferred to Munich after World War I where he engaged in political activity that fueled the ascendancy of the Nazi Party.

Austria will hold its general elections in November following the collapse of the alliance between the conservative People's Party and the smaller far-right Freedom Party. Less heralded is the elections early this month in Sweden, where a center-left government was reelected. The victory of the center-left in Germany halted the tide of defeats of socialists in Europe at the hands of center-right parties in France, Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark.

The Austrian elections in November and the political trend they foreshadow occupy special interest among the member nations of the European Union because it is in Austria where impulses of neo-Nazi politics have vibrated strongly during the past two and a half years.

The coalition fell into disarray after the ultra-right Freedom Party was split in a power struggle in which its controversial leader, Joerg Halder, was replaced by more moderate party members, forcing Chancellor Wolfgang Schussel to call for a general election in November. He said that the turmoil in the Freedom Party had made the coalition unstable. With the dissolution of the government, 183 seats in parliament are up for grabs. In the last parliament, the Social Democrats held the most number of seats, 80 or 33 percent; the People's Party, 55 or 27 percent; the Freedom Party, 55 or 27 percent.

Whether the Social Democrats will be helped by this shake-up or by the narrow victory of their Social Democratic brethren in Berlin is hard to tell, but the main casualty in this turmoil is Haider, probably the most controversial politician in mainland Europe after Monsieur Le Pen of the ultra-right National Front came second in the first round of the French election last May which scared the French into rallying behind Jacques Chirac of the center-right Gaullist party.

The withdrawal of Haider from contention for the party leadership after the resignation of senior party leaders from the coalition cabinet isolates the extreme right tendency in the party, much to the relief of EU members who have been nervous over Austria's politics moving to the edge of authoritarianism.

When the People's Party forged a coalition with the Freedom Party early in 2000, the alliance sent shock waves across Europe and prompted international criticism on account of Haider's Nazi past and authoritarian rhetoric. A charismatic politician who is a lawyer, the 52-year-old Haider became party leader in 1986 when the party barely secured 5 percent of the vote. In 10 years, he had increased the support to 28 percent. In recent months the party's support plunged in the wake of his pro-Nazi statements.

He was forced to resign as governor of Carinthia province after he praised the employment policies of Nazi Germany. He described the Nazi concentration camps as "punishment camps" and said the Nazi SS (secret state police) was "a part of the Germany which should be honored."

He has also compared the deportation of Jews by the Nazis to the expulsion of Sudeten Germans from Czechoslovakia after World War II.

Following the formation of the coalition between the People's Party and the Freedom Party, the EU imposed sanctions on Austria in a move led by France whose center-right government found Haider's allegedly anti-democratic politics too much to swallow. The sanctions were intended as a message to EU members and central European nations seeking EU membership that the union does not tolerate racism and anti-democratic tendencies. One of the key criteria for admission into the EU is that the candidate country has a democratic system.

The EU lifted the sanctions after seven months which included a break off of political contacts, but Haider's extremist politics had been echoed in his position opposing the admission of 10 new central European countries into the 15-member EU on the grounds that enlargement would unleash a flood of central European migration into Austria, creating crime problems and putting a strain on the economy.

But the government bureaucrats, business chambers and more moderate center-right politicians disagree with Haider, and they have presented statistics to show the Austrian economy would gain from enlargement. Nonetheless, Haider's arguments against enlargement have echoed far-right rhetoric on migration such as those articulated by Le Pen. With Haider being sidelined, he now goes back to Carinthia, where he has been reelected governor, and the specter of neo-Nazism and anti-semitism has receded in the run-up to the November elections. The fear of Austria blocking off enlargement has also receded, but the elections are likely to reflect Vienna's moderating tendency.

How Brazil did it

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN THE EARLY '90s, just as the Philippines and the world were waking up to the gravity and reach of the AIDS epidemic, a former (thankfully) senator wrote an op-ed piece that, to me, was about the most hard-hearted piece of writing on the illness.

Why should the Philippine government, he said, spend so much money on buying condoms, distributing them and educating the public on safe sex and AIDS prevention when majority of those affected were sex workers and men having sex with men?

Quite apart from the fact that the senator didn't know his science—the majority of Filipinos living with HIV were and are infected through heterosexual sex—was he in effect advocating "selective compassion," a favorite term of his so-called pro-life colleagues? It certainly sounded to me like he was saying that since "only" prostitutes and gays were in danger of dying from AIDS, then the rest of us shouldn't bother ourselves about their fate.

(As an aside, the ex-senator's wife exhibited much the same cavalier attitude when, appearing before the House Committee on Health, she sought to downplay the need for a reproductive health and rights bill by saying "only" 170 plus Filipino women [out of every 100,000, she neglected to mention or perhaps missed] die each year due to pregnancy- and delivery-related causes, so what's the fuss being made about maternal mortality?)

Unfortunately, the former senator's attitude seems to have seeped into the mind-sets of people at the forefront of the struggle. Last Saturday, I had as guests on my radio show, XYZone (Saturday, 12:30-1:30 p.m. over dzAR 1026 AM), Charles Gojar, a volunteer caregiver with the Remedios AIDS Foundation; Tess Cuvero, a program officer with Remedios' Community Resource Center; and Rina Mistika, a person living with HIV and member of the Positive Action Foundation Inc. When I asked Charles what the people he was looking after were most bitter about, he said it was the way they were being treated by health personnel, especially the nurses who seemed deathly afraid to approach, much less touch them, as if HIV were transmitted by air or through casual contact.

And that is how public opinion and official policy impact on private behavior and individual fate. A contemptuous, cavalier attitude fostered by public officials toward the HIV/AIDS community translates into indifference on the part of caregivers and unnecessary suffering for those struggling with the disease.

* * *

HOW is the Philippine government to address the issue of HIV/AIDS in the country when official attitudes swing from indifference to outright condemnation (for "low morals") of PLWAs? True, civil society groups have rallied around the issue and have done much to raise public awareness. But is there a way both public and private sectors can do a better job?

One of the happier "success stories" on the AIDS front is Brazil, the fifth largest country in the world in both size and population, which succeeded in "turning the tide" on the AIDS epidemic. As an article by Christopher Reardon, published in the latest issue of the Ford Foundation Report, explains, from a peak in 1998 when 0.4 percent of Brazil's population was infected with HIV (on par with figures in North America and Western Europe), the rate of incidence has steadily gone down, with hospital admissions due to HIV dropping by 75 percent and AIDS-related deaths falling by 50 percent.

Many reasons have been advanced for Brazil's success. "Some analysts point to aggressive prevention campaigns, while others stress the success to free treatment," writes Reardon. "Yet there is little dispute, even within the Brazilian government, that the primary catalysts for both of these policies were civic activists."

"We don't always agree on specifics," Reardon quotes Rosemeire Munhoz, a senior official at the government's National STD/AIDS Program. "But I think we all recognize that dialogue between government and the civil sector is crucial in stopping an epidemic like AIDS."

* * *

BRAZIL'S AIDS program concentrated on two major and overlapping areas: prevention and treatment.

"The prevention work began first, at a time when the number of people with HIV was doubling every 10 months," Reardon writes. Conventional wisdom, he said, then held that Brazilians' relaxed attitudes about sexuality made for the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS, but in retrospect, "this openness has allowed for particularly frank and candid public education campaigns that are helping to keep sexually transmitted diseases in check."

Compassion for people living with HIV and respect for their rights were key components of the prevention and education drive. As AIDS awareness increased in the early 1980s, "AIDS came with a deep and hurtful stigma." Discrimination against the PLWAs was common, and at times, treatment was even refused for people suspected of being HIV-positive.

Herbert de Souza, a prominent dissident widely known as Betinho, had just returned to Brazil as the country opened up to democracy. At once, he saw the struggle of his countryfolk living with HIV as not just a health crisis but as "the first real test of Brazil's resurgent democracy."

In 1986, Betinho announced that he, too was HIV-positive, something no public figure in Brazil had done before. That same year, he founded the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association, better known by its Portuguese acronym, ABIA. The group continues to be a major presence in Brazil and in international forums, even if Betinho himself passed away in 1998. *(More tomorrow)*

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Iraq's weapons a 'current and serious' threat

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jane Wardell

LONDON—Iraq has a growing arsenal of chemical and biological weapons, and plans to use them, Prime Minister Tony Blair said Tuesday, publishing a dossier on Saddam Hussein's military capability.

Blair, who also claimed that Iraq is trying to develop nuclear weapons, told a special session of Parliament that his priority is to get inspectors back into Iraq. But he repeatedly expressed enthusiasm for the US goal of "regime change" in Baghdad.

"Iraq, the region and the whole world would be better off without Saddam," said Blair, after releasing the long-awaited intelligence dossier, which declared the Iraqi leader had weapons of mass destruction ready to be used within 45 minutes of an order to fight.

"There is no way that this man, in this region above all regions, could begin a conflict using such weapons and the consequences not engulf the whole world," Blair told a packed House of Commons.

Baghdad rejected the British analysis, which also said Iraq was trying to extend the range of its ballistic missiles.

"The British prime minister is serving the campaign of lies led by Zionists against Iraq. Blair is part of this misleading campaign," Iraqi Culture Minister Hammed Youssef Hammadi said in Baghdad.

In Cairo, Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri denied that Iraq has or is developing weapons of mass destruction, and said Blair was simply trying to justify a military attack against Baghdad.

In Denmark, where European and Asian leaders were meeting, French President Jacques Chirac and Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji both said the UN Security Council must play a vital role in the crisis.

"I do not think at all that war is unavoidable," Chirac said, adding that UN weapons inspectors must be allowed to find out what Saddam has.

"Any military attack on Iraq that does not have the blessing of the Security Council will lead to severe consequences," Zhu said.

But the White House called the dossier "frightening" and praised Blair for his strong defense of the US-led efforts against Saddam. "We don't trust this man, and that's what the Blair report showed today," US President George W. Bush said.

The 50-page dossier—which appeared to contain little new evidence—said "Iraq has military plans for the use of chemical and biological weapons," and has tried to acquire "significant quantities" of uranium from Africa.

"Unless we face up to the threat, not only do we risk undermining the authority of the UN, whose resolutions he defies, but more importantly and in the longer term, we place at risk the lives and prosperity of our own people," Blair said in an introduction to the report.

Blair is Bush's closest European ally, but faces dissent within his governing Labor Party and a reported rift in his Cabinet over the issue. Hundreds of anti-war protesters also gathered near Parliament, some riding a double-decker bus and singing John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance."

Parliament's emergency one-day session did not include a vote on a specific anti-war motion. But dozens of Labor Party backbenchers recorded their opposition to military action without UN backing by forcing a technical vote during which they tried without success to prevent the nine-hour debate from ending in the House of Commons.

During it, Blair repeatedly said it was important to get UN backing, but he did not shy from the possibility of military action to back up demands for resumed inspections in Iraq.

"The one thing I am sure of is that there is no prospect of a proper weapons inspection regime going back in there and doing its job properly unless Saddam knows that the alternative to that is that he is forced to comply with the UN will," Blair said.

Michael Ancram, the opposition Conservative Party's spokesperson for foreign affairs, said his party supported Blair's notion that military action "may well in the end be necessary."

"Our message to Saddam Hussein today is blunt and it is simple:...Destroy your weapons, or we will do it for you," said Ancram.

Left-wing lawmakers said the government dossier provided little new information and remained unconvinced of the need for war.

"Tony Blair will have to do better than this if he wants to convince the British public to go to war," said Labor lawmaker Diane Abbott.

A poll in Tuesday's Guardian newspaper said 86 percent of Britons believe the government should seek the support of the British Parliament and the United Nations before taking military action against Iraq.

"For those of us who have never subscribed to British unilateralism, we are not about to sign up to American unilateralism now either," said Charles Kennedy, leader of the opposition Liberal Democrats.

But Blair said Britain's ability to work with America to contain Iraq was of fundamental importance to the wider world.

"Those people who want to pull apart the trans-Atlantic relationship...or who sneer about the American relationship we have, may get some short term benefit, but long term it is very, very dangerous," he said.

The government report said that Saddam attaches great importance to weapons of mass destruction as the basis of Iraq's regional power.

"He is ready to use them, including against his own population, and is determined to retain them, in breach of United Nations Security Council resolutions," the dossier said.

It provided a detailed history of Iraq's weapons program and an assessment of its current capabilities, based on British and allied intelligence. *AP*

My faith, unabashedly

HIGH BLOOD

Cecilia Tobias Lopez

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

I WOULD like to state at the outset that I believe in the existence of a compassionate, understanding and forgiving God. One who will not just punish me for my sins but will review the gray areas of my life to find mitigating circumstances to lighten my sentence.

I have never been into public breast-beating and soul-baring which are standard features of religious assemblies. I see a lot of hypocrisy in some of those who exhibit religious fervor, involve themselves in church affairs, but who show little charity and compassion for their fellowmen. To me they are a negation of the God that they profess to worship.

I really have no quarrel with those who seek spiritual enrichment by joining religious assemblies and movements. It's just that I prefer to communicate with my Maker in a private manner—whether to unburden my problems, fears and uncertainties, or to thank Him for the numerous blessings He sends my way. Which was the reason I turned down a sister's invitation to join her at a Cursillo course. But she was persistent, aided and abetted by other members of the family who feared for my soul. I finally gave in—and what an experience it turned out to be.

Our entire stay in that old Cursillo house somehwere in Caloocan was marked by perpetual darkness. The windows were boarded up and you never knew if it was night or day. Lighting was provided by a few weak bulbs. Our watches, radios and books were confiscated. Obviously, the point was to isolate us from the outside world. Sessions were only interrupted by austere meals and a few hours of sleep.

For someone lacking in commitment to this process of spiritual enrichment, I soon found the exercise depressingly boring. Having a temper as short as my stature, (shades of GMA!) and suddenly developing the attention span of a 2-year-old, the monotony soon got to me. In the middle of a session, I suddenly got up, announced that I've had it, and marched out of the room. Two trainors frantically rushed after me but I was adamant about returning home. They tried to enlist the assistance of my sister, who was mortified but not surprised by my behavior. She knew better than to oblige.

In the next few hours, marked by repeated opportunings by the trainors (who had never experienced anything like this before), I had time to reconsider. I agreed to rejoin the group.

I went back to the session hall, feeling a bit embarrassed and defiant at the same time. Trailing behind me were two trainors, one bearing a footstool and the other a comfortable-looking chair because I complained that my back and feet ached during sessions. I was on good behavior for the rest of the course—so good that my batchmates elected me president.

Another religious misadventure involved a priest. In my teens; I discovered the forbidden pleasures of reading the likes of "Lady Chatterly's Lover" and Boccaccio's chronicles on randy clerics and frisky nuns in his "Tales from the Decameron." Feeling guilty (you would, too, if you had a mother who ordered you to close your eyes or cover your face whenever love scenes wete flashed on a movie screen), I decided to go to confession. The priest I went to was decidedly out of the "Decameron." He probed into what I felt or did after reading such "salacious" materials. Did I play with myself? Noting my stunned silence, he proceeded to describe in graphic detail things one could do in moments of lust. I reeled out of the confessional angry and confused. It took a long time before I went to confession again.

In my twilight years, I have, I think, become more tolerant and understanding of those who join up with cults, sects and other religious groups even if some are of dubious orientations led by charlatans out to exploit their gullible flock. The allegiance and fervor of the members never fail to amaze me. The only explanation I can think of is that members find meaning and direction in their lives by affiliating with these organizations, meeting up with kindred spirits and surrendering to the manipulations of their leaders. In these hard and cruel times, religion, or some form of it, provides a panacea for the vicissitudes of living in a world of scarce resources and opportunities, cutthroat competition and diminishing humanity.

I am still not into public breast-beating and soul-baring.

Cecilia Tobias Lopez, 64, is a retired UP employee and still runs that sari-sari store.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Quiapo killings

MORE than two years after suspected Moro Islamic Liberation Front members Ustadz Hadji Esmael Omar and Akmad Samin were shot and killed in Quiapo, Manila, police operatives arrested SPO2 Eduardo Ramos in Laguna on June 10, 2002.

Ramos, together with SPO4 Wilson Tibor, SPO4 Remigio Estacio, SPO4 Benedicto Rodriguez, SPO2 Edgardo Abaga, SPO1 Julian Siriban, PO3 Randy Dimayuga, PO2 Ronald Hernandez, PO2 Philip Malindog and PO1 Ignacio Gaerlan who were all from the WPD Police Intelligence Unit, is one of the accused for the killing of the two Muslims during a reported encounter with Western Police District operatives at the Islamic Center in Quiapo. Both come from Cotabato City.

Citing Philippine Army intelligence reports, then WPD director Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr. said that Omar was the field commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Samin was his bodyguard.

The victims' relatives, however, vehemently denied the allegation and raised the possibility of a rubout. They pointed out that the two men were unarmed.

Prosecutors from the Department of Justice recommended on Sept. 15, 2000, the filing of double murder charges against Ramos and eight other policemen. The case against Rodriguez was dismissed for lack of evidence.

On Feb. 13, 2001, charges were filed before the Manila Regional Trial Court. The cases were raffled off to the sala of Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada of Branch 41.

Case status: The case is in its trial stage and the prosecution is presently presenting its evidence. Ramos is detained at the Western Police District jail. He pleaded "not guilty" when arraigned on July 22. The rest of the accused are still at large. The accused have already been relieved from their posts since June 2000.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

Let Mark Jimenez face the music

CONGRESSMEN from both sides of the hall are rallying to the cause of their colleague, Mark Jimenez. Some speak of a "constitutional crisis" and of "the Supreme Court's interference with the House." To cap it all, they threaten to impeach the eight justices who voted to rescind Jimenez's bail.

I am a non-lawyer and a non-congressman, so my knowledge of the law is not as comprehensive. But I remember my basic civics, which says the Supreme Court's job is to interpret matters of the Constitution. The Court does not decide on guilt, it mainly judges if the due process of law is served. In the Jimenez case, its job was to interpret what the Constitution might say about who has jurisdiction of this case, and not his guilt or innocence. Far from interfering, the Supreme Court is Congress' arbiter, its designated referee if you will, in ambiguous cases like these.

Congress made, and Congress can therefore amend, the Constitution as it sees fit. If Congress votes that all Filipinos must wear underwear on the outside tomorrow, then the Judiciary and the Supreme Court must see to it. If Congress decides that its own members must receive special treatment that ordinary citizens do not, then the Supreme Court must now implement.

But to impeach the Supreme Court because of its interpretation of the law of the land is foul. Charge the law, ladies and gentlemen of our Congress—but do not impeach the Court members for doing their job.

Finally, let Jimenez face the music. Yes, he deserves due process that is any citizen's right. But do not protect him by threatening impeachment and a constitutional crisis.

—RICARDO A. LIM,
Asian Institute of Management,
123 Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City

Filinvest, not Fil-Estate Corp.

WE, at Filinvest wish to request a correction of an apparent inadvertence in a Page 2 news item in the Sept. 21 issue of the INQUIRER titled, "Rash of kidnaps rattles taipans."

Please be informed that our chair, Andrew L. Gotianun, is the chief executive officer of Filinvest and not "the chief executive officer of Fil-Estate Corp." as reported.

We will greatly appreciate seeing this correction in your paper at the earliest possible time.

—EMILIANO D. TEMPLO,
vice president, Filinvest Land Inc.,
173 P. Gomez St., San Juan, Metro Manila

Napocor towers won't require felling of trees

THIS is about the nine (among the proposed 316) Napocor steel towers to be installed inside the Leyte State University (LSU) of the Leyte Bohol Interconnection Project Stage 2 (LBIP). The project will start from Tongonan, Leyte, the source of power supply, and traverse Ormoc City and the towns of Albuera, Baybay, Inopacan, Hindang, Hilongos, Bato and Matalom in Leyte as well as Maasin City in Southern Leyte, from which submarine cables will be laid going to the island of Bohol where the electric power will be distributed.

The locations of the 316 towers were picked after they were determined to be the most advantageous and least expensive. The nine steel towers to be built inside the LSU campus will replace the existing wood poles, so no trees will be cut down.

Like the Leyte Mindanao Interconnection Project (LMIP), LBIP-2 has already been issued an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This means that appropriate mitigating measures have already been identified and recommended to address the negative impacts so that these can be brought to acceptable levels, including safe radiation (EMF) levels, as certified by the Department of Health.

Aside from the mitigating measures, the proponent was obliged to settle with the parties affected by the right of way and plant 10 trees for every single tree cut.

But one can never please everybody, and the project does not lack for opposers. Nevertheless, acceptability is not measured merely by the yes or no of the affected stakeholders. It requires a general assessment of the social impact. Among other considerations are, it must be consistent with plans and policies of the national, regional and local authorities and must contribute to the government's effort in promoting social equity.

—LEO S.S. DACANAY,
Block 3, Lot 3, Apostol Subd.,
Lower Nula-tula, Tacloban City

Feel like a vacation?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

MY family and I are planning to spend our vacation in Manila, however, it looks like Baghdad or Kabul might be safer for us.

Not to offend anyone, but it looks like that no place in the Philippines is safe. Unless you have a family in the islands, I can't see any reason for anybody to spend even a single day in any part of the republic. Dick Gordon's budget for his foreign trip to drum support and encourage tourism, can be better spent for peace and order operations. Aside from the kidnappers, you still have to worry about the NPA, if you are traveling in the Luzon and the Visayas regions, and if your travel plan includes Palawan and Mindanao, just be sure to check your insurance policy if it's in effect...because there is a great possibility that your beneficiary will be happy.—**charly**

* * *

Charly, just remember not to forget your common sense; never flash your jewelry, be humble, dress comfortably and simply, carry less money in your bag, as much as possible do not carry a cell phone, or fat wallet. Do not speak in English nor boast about yourself. Manila is also like New York City.—**benjietom**

* * *

I am not a flashy individual nor are any members of my family, and although my kids were born here in the States, they all speak Filipino fluently. And whenever they are in the Philippines, they all speak the local language all the time. However, you're missing the point...when I am vacationing, why do I have to be on guard about what to wear, what to bring and how to speak? If this is how you see it, then what happens to other foreigners who don't speak the language and don't understand the local culture or a businessman who conducts his business through a cellular phone? Why curtail our rights? Shouldn't it be the other way around?—**charly**

* * *

I don't like to hear or read that Manila or the Philippines is the kidnapping capital of the world but it does "seem" that way. Every time you turn on the news, it's kidnapping here, kidnapping there. And to think that the "publicized" kidnappings are only the big profile ones. How bad is it really?

If you're not in the Philippines, and this is all that you read and hear, that's enough to stop you from visiting the islands. So, there goes tourism. We can't stop reports like these, because that would be suppressing the freedom of the press. But (bad) news like this gets so much sensation. Of course....bad news sells...goods news is hohum! Our only hope here is for our government to hand out the maximum penalty to the criminals (but enough with the photo ops) and for our military to do the best it could in response and rescue, so the innocents/victims could live happily ever after.—**iluvNY**

* * *

Assunta's boastfulness on TV announcing how rich her boyfriend is, might have caused the unfortunate kidnapping of Rep. Jules Ledesma's kids. According to the police, it was well-planned, and due to the lack of or minimal security, the incident was carried out so easily. May this be a lesson for those who are boastful of their riches, but lack the common sense to beef up their security. Congressmen should be able to afford making their vehicles bulletproof and having easy access to security backup. So lesson No. 1: be humble so as not to catch the eyes of would-be kidnappers. I doubt if no payout happened in this incident.—**benjietom**

* * *

I'm wondering if anybody ever thought of what this kidnapping will do to those children. Please, let's set aside that they belong to the upper class and think of the emotional aftermath that will forever be in their young minds. I hope the father is more interested in taking care of the needs of his children, i.e. sending them to a child psychologist to check on their emotional stability over time. The fact that he wants the children's school to send tutors to his home because they need time to "recover," is not the ideal "healing" process I would recommend. Why not try to reintegrate the children into the environment they were used to before this kidnapping as soon as possible, instead of isolating them from the rest of their peers? The kidnapping problem in our nation is a major hindrance to our nation's struggle to get back on the "economic" track but we should not forget those people directly affected by these kidnappings...i.e. children and adult victims alike.—**geri**

* * *

Tried and tested formula, there are two...

1. Pay the ransom quick, this is the only formula to get the kidnappers to release their victim(s) quickly...

2. Do not pay the ransom, this is the only formula to discourage future kidnappings...

Now, which one did Representative Ledesma use?—**safedudeus**

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Repeat of reprisal killings feared after Hindu massacre

AHMEDABAD, India—Thousands of troops were on alert across the west Indian state of Gujarat on Thursday as a nationwide strike began in protest against the massacre of 28 people in a Hindu temple by Muslim gunmen.

The government, fearing a repeat of religious reprisal killings of at least 1,000 mostly Muslims in the state earlier this year, flew in about 3,000 troops to Gujarat as a precaution.

The strike was called by hardline nationalist groups allied to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In the state's commercial capital Ahmedabad, streets were mostly deserted, shops were shuttered but it was business as usual for fruit, vegetable and milk hawkers.

"People are scared," said Maqbool Hussain, 25, a cigaret shop owner who lives in the Dariapur area of Ahmedabad.

Dariapur was among the areas worst-hit by the violence in February and March.

In Dariapur and elsewhere, hundreds of Muslims were leaving their homes and seeking refuge in camps or Muslim-majority neighborhoods, an official at a relief camp said.

February's reprisal killings followed the deaths of 59 Hindus when a Muslim mob torched a train. It was the country's worst religious bloodshed in years.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) and Bajrang Dal called the strike in protest against Tuesday night's raid on the sprawling pink-sandstone Akshardham Temple.

Vajpayee appealed to people of the state on Wednesday to maintain communal harmony after what he said was a "well-planned" attack.

"Brotherhood should continue to be preserved," Vajpayee said after a brief visit to the temple massacre site on Wednesday. "There is no place for communal hatred." Two young Muslim gunmen opened fire and hurled grenades at hundreds of people at the temple before being shot dead by Indian commandos after a night-long siege.

Muslims fear the strike call could reignite religious violence in Gujarat after the three organizations were accused of whipping up anti-Muslim sentiment after the train massacre.

Reuters

HINDU priests from another sect of the Swaminarayan order hold a votive statue as they leave the Akshardham Temple in Gandhinagar after performing prayers Sept. 26. AFP

Gunmen kill 7 Christians in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan—Armed assailants tied up Christian charity workers, taped their victims' mouths closed and shot them execution-style Wednesday, a bullet each to the head.

The attack killed seven people in the southern port city of Karachi—and shattered hopes that a sweeping crackdown on Islamic militants had broken the back of violent groups targeting foreigners and Pakistan's Christian minority.

One person was critically wounded in the attack on the third-floor office of the Institute for Peace and Justice, a Pakistani Christian charity. The victims, all Pakistani Christians, were bound to chairs with their hands behind their backs before being shot point-blank in the head, Karachi Police Chief Kamal Shah said.

The shooting was the latest in a string of attacks against Christian organizations that has killed at least 36 people and wounded 100 since President Pervez Musharraf's decision to join the war on terrorism in Afghanistan and crack down on extremists at home.

Shah said it was not known who was behind Wednesday's attack, but police were questioning an office assistant who was tied up and beaten by the attackers, but not shot.

Authorities want to know how the gunmen got into the office, which had an electronic door that could only be opened from the inside, he said. The office assistant told police there were two gunmen, Shah said.

The Institute for Peace and Justice has operated in Karachi for 30 years, working with poor municipal and textile laborers to press for improved working conditions and organizing programs with local human rights groups.

Pakistan's 3.8 million Christians make up about 2.5 percent of the country's population and have been the targets of a series of recent attacks,

AP

'Economy class syndrome' kills Aussie woman

CANBERRA—A young Australian woman died from a heart attack, possibly caused by "economy class syndrome", just hours after stepping off a long-haul flight to the United States, Australiah authorities said on Thursday.

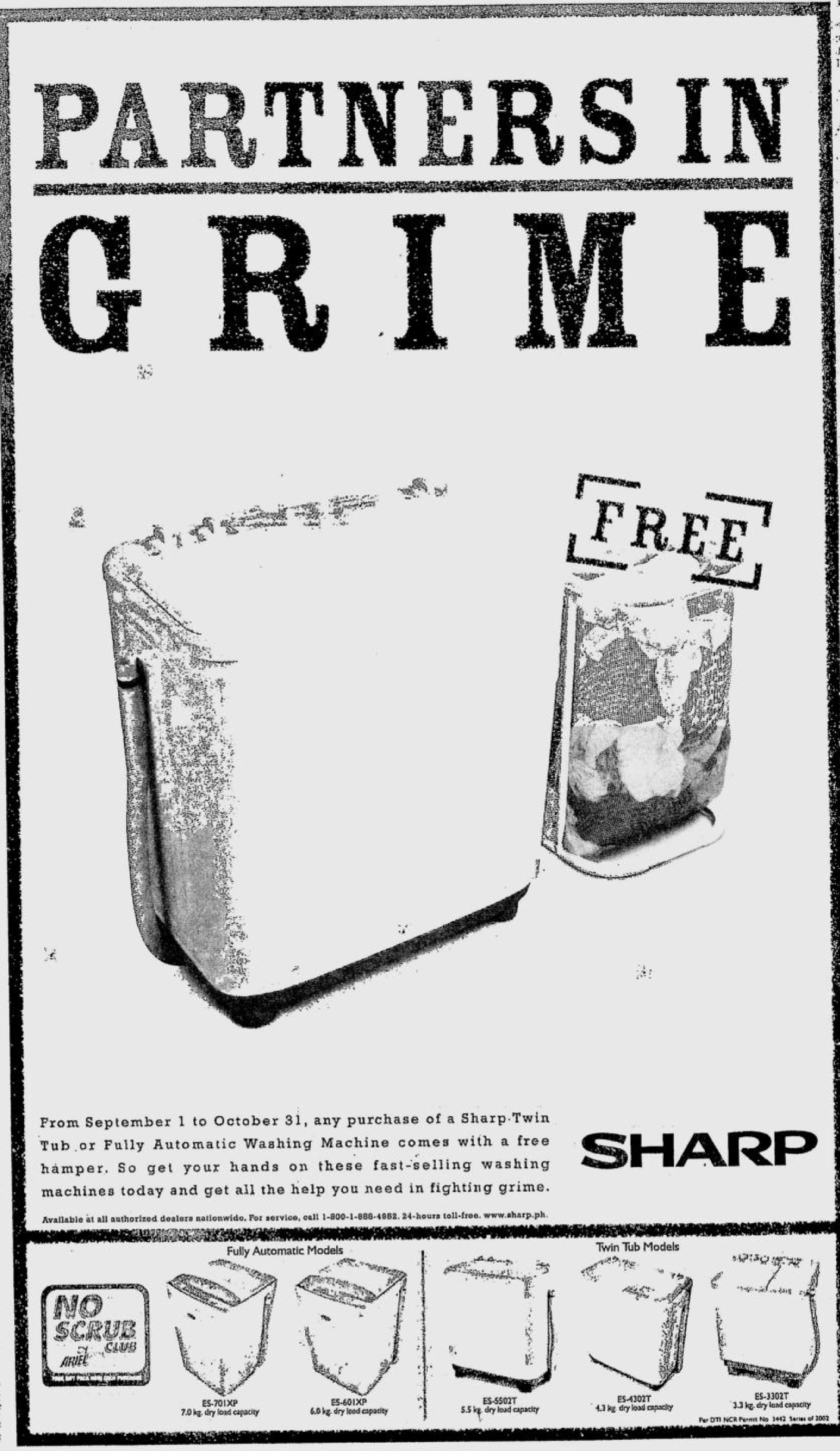
Rebecca Yates, 25, died of a heart attack last Saturday after flying from Sydney to Los Angeles on an Air New Zealand flight that lasted more than 13 hours, officials said.

Yates, of Brisbane, Australia, then continued on to Las Vegas where she was believed to be meeting up with her fiance.

Las Vegas health officials told the Brisbane Courier-Mail newspaper that an autopsy showed Yates had suffered a heart attack triggered by a blood clot in an artery.

The sometimes fatal condition of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is believed to result from long hours of inactivity, particularly of the legs, and can occur on long-distance flights.

Reuters



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Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(63 2) 636-6944 to 47

PRIZES

- Ten (10) 50.8 cm. (20") Color TV (Cable Ready)
- Ten (10) VCD Charger Components
- Ten (10) 0.24 cm. (8 cu. ft.) Sanyo Refrigerator
- Ten (10) 5 kg. Washing Machine

DRAW DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2002

PROMO MECHANICS

1. Every P1,000.00 single purchase (or accumulated, provided the purchase is made within the same day) from any MC Home Branch as well as participating booths in both stores entitles the customer to one (1) raffle coupon.
2. Customers must indicate their name, address, contact number and affixed signature on the raffle coupon and drop it in designated drop boxes located in any of our branches. All entries must be in the drop boxes by 8:00 P.M. of October 6, 2002.
3. Raffle draw will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2002 at MC Home Depot in Ortigas at 4:30 P.M. Prizes at stake at the raffle are:

   Ten (10) 50.8 cm. (20") Color TV (Cable Ready)
   Ten (10) VCD Charger Components
   Ten (10) 0.24 cm. (8 cu. ft.) Sanyo Refrigerator
   Ten (10) 5 kg. Washing Machine

   A DTI Representative will be invited to witness the draw.
4. A participant may only win once. Should a winner's name be drawn more than once, the prize of higher value shall be awarded to him/her.
5. All prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash, credit or kind.
6. Winners will be notified by registered mail & telephone. All prizes can be claimed at the Administration Office of the respective branch where the purchase was made depending on what is specified on the registered notice of the winner claimants.
7. To claim their prizes, winners must present their letter of notification from MC Home Builders' Depot or MC Home Depot, a valid ID (i.e., passport, driver's license, voter's affidavit, SSS/TIN Card) and the raffle claim stub for verification.
8. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall automatically be forfeited with prior approval from the DTI.
9. Employees of MC Home Builder's Depot, MC Home Depot, both its suppliers, and tenants including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not allowed to join the promotion.
10. Promo period is from September 27 to October 6, 2002 only.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3832 Series of 2002

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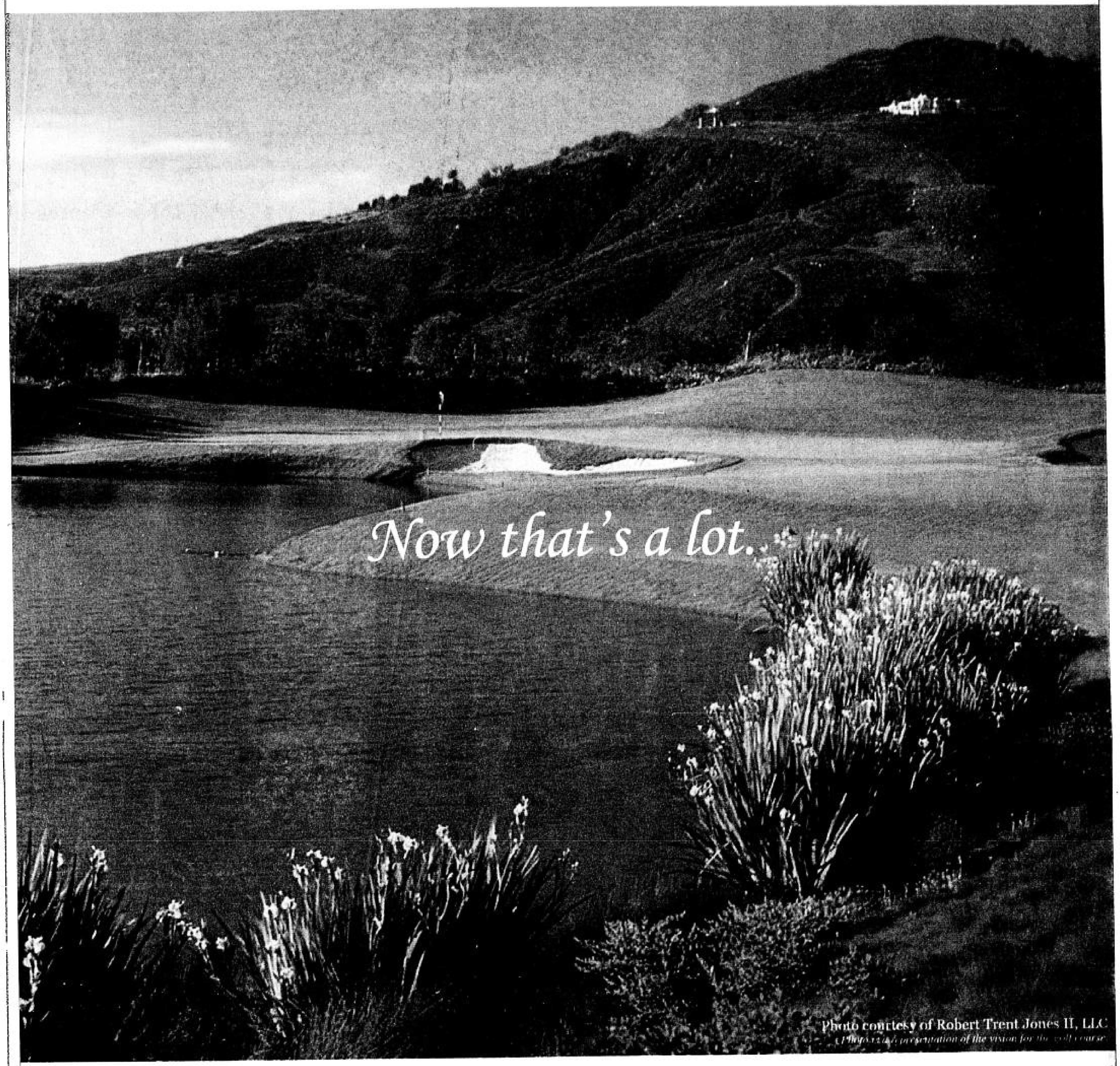
Now that's a lot..

Photo courtesy of Robert Trent Jones II, LLC

(Photographic presentation of the vision for the golf course)

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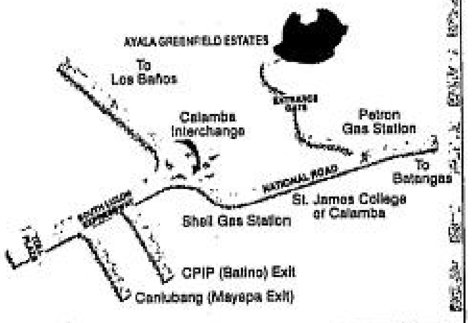
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St. James College of Calamba
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LOVELY EVEN WITHOUT THE TITLE AP

Russian Oxana Fedorova walks carrying flowers in Moscow, Sept. 25. Four months after she became the first Miss Universe from Russia, Fedorova had her crown removed because she was too busy to travel much.

US says Iraq helped al-Qaida develop chemical weapons

WASHINGTON—The United States has information that Iraq has helped train members of al-Qaida in chemical weapons development and has given refuge to some of the terror network's representatives, a top White House official disclosed late Wednesday.

The remarks by national security adviser Condoleezza Rice marked the first time the administration of President George W. Bush has tried to substantiate its claim that the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the Islamic group led by Osama bin Laden had a working relationship.

"We clearly know that there were in the past and have been contacts between senior Iraqi officials and members of al-Qaida going back for actually quite a long time," said Rice, who appeared on PBS's "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" show.

"We know too that several of the detainees, in particular some high-ranking detainees, have said that Iraq provided some training to al-Qaida in chemical weapons development," she added.

In an intelligence dossier released on Tuesday, the British government said Iraq continues to maintain a robust chemical weapons program and would be able to deploy chemical weapons within 45 minutes.

Meanwhile, US troops based in Afghanistan have discovered several underground laboratories as well as documents indicating that al-Qaida had been trying to build crude chemical weapons, according to US military officials.

Rice said the US government did not contend that Saddam Hussein was behind the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, when suspected al-Qaida hijackers rammed passenger planes into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon building outside Washington.

But she said that the secret ties between Baghdad and Bin Laden's terror network was "a story that is unfolding, and it is getting clear, and we're learning more."

"So, yes, there are contacts between Iraq and al-Qaida," Rice insisted. "We know that Saddam Hussein has a long history with terrorism in general. And there are some al-Qaida personnel who found refuge in Baghdad."

She did not offer any specific names. *AFP*

Russians bomb Ingush village after Chechen attack

NEAR GALASHKI, Russia—Russian warplanes bombed a village in the republic of Ingushetia bordering Chechnya on Thursday, following fierce fighting between Russian troops and a group of Chechen rebels.

From some five km outside the village, an AFP correspondent saw a plane identified by local residents as a Sukhoi SU-25 fly towards Galashki, heard the bombing and then saw smoke rising from the scene.

Earlier, Russian officials quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency reported that eight Russian soldiers were killed and some 30 rebels killed or wounded during clashes in Galashki with up to 300 Chechen separatist fighters.

The Chechen rebels early in the morning shot down a Russian Mi-24 military helicopter, killing its two crew members, near the village, according to the Russian military.

One inhabitant of Galashki, Mariam Agapranova, was killed by gun shots, according to witnesses who were not able to give further details. An ambulance evacuated two wounded civilian men.

Reinforcements were being rushed to the village, with military jeeps and armored personnel carriers driving towards Galashki carrying Russian special forces, said the AFP correspondent, who was at a military checkpoint outside.

Residents were fleeing in trucks and cars from the village of 6,000 inhabitants, which has 1,500 Chechen refugees living there and lies some 20 km from the border with Chechnya.

A Chechen refugee who fled Galashki, and who gave his name only as Aslan, said that in the village "there are shots everywhere, but the rebels had already left." *AFP*

23 first ladies stage meet on behalf of poor children

A 1937 photo by Dorothea Lange of a former tenant farmer's child in Texas, part of an exhibit of children's photos at the Library of Congress in Washington. AP

MEXICO CITY—Taking her fight on behalf of poor children to the international level, Mexico's first lady welcomed her counterparts from across the Americas on Wednesday—including US first lady Laura Bush and Canada's Aline Chretien—to help her look for ways to alleviate poverty.

The 11th Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Government made its Mexican debut in the fine arts palace in Mexico City's historical center, where Martha Sahagun de Fox and President Vicente Fox welcomed first ladies Wednesday night with flowers, hugs and handshakes, and a traditional Mexican concert.

The conference will include 23 of the hemisphere's 35 first ladies, including Sahagun.

Bush, Colombian first lady Lina Maria Moreno de Uribe, Venezuela's Marisabel Rodriguez de Chavez, and Maria Yolanda Ferrer, secretary-general of the Federation of Cuban Women, were among those in attendance at the inauguration ceremony.

Dressed in business suits, pearls and late-summer dresses, the women rose one by one from their seats under the sweeping marble arches and stained-glass dome of the palace's auditorium as their names were announced by Mexican actress Rosenda Montero.

The goal of the first ladies' conference is to share the experiences of countries in the Americas and look for ways to help children in poverty. *AP*

Seoul in furor over alleged $400 M for Koreas summit

SEOUL—A political storm erupted Thursday over allegations that South Korea sent a $400-million secret fund to North Korea to secure a landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000.

Rival political parties in South Korea launched a war of words after an opposition lawmaker claimed late Wednesday that the secret loan was delivered through the Hyundai group to Pyongyang.

The claim, if confirmed, could seriously hurt the image of South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung who won the Nobel Peace Prize after his summit with North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong-Il in June, 2000.

The Hyundai group played a key role in the inter-Korean rapprochement by sinking a huge amount of corporate money into a tourism project at the North's scenic Mount Kumgang resort.

The ruling Millennium Democratic Party (MDP) denounced the opposition Grand National Party (GNP) for a smear campaign aimed at grabbing the upper hand ahead of presidential elections in December.

"The opposition party is fanning ungrounded rumors about our North Korea policy," MDP chairman Hahn Hwa-Kab said.

The opposition party, which has a majority in the National Assembly, called for a parliamentary probe and demanded Kim Dae-Jung make a public apology.

"The claim led us to believe President Kim bought the summit," GNP leader Suh Chong-Won said.

He accused the government of covering up allegations that the money might have been funneled into the North's military, citing a report by the US Congressional Research Service in March which said North Korea received secret funds through Hyundai.

"It is an act of aiding the enemy. President Kim must step down if the claim is verified," he said The president's office issued a statement angrily refuting Suh's allegations.

"The GNP must stop slandering the president for its election campaign," the statement said.

The GNP is fielding former Supreme Court justice Lee Hoi-Chang against the MDP's Roh Moo-Hyun in December elections. *AFP*

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d. (1) Quaker Cereal Beverage polybag/carton
e. (1) Quaker Oatmeal Porridge carton

3. Send / Mail entries to:

Quaker Oats Asia, Inc c/o
The Partnership Network, Inc.
Unit 711
IPI Buendia Tower
Sen. Gil Puyat, Pasay City
Or drop entries in Quaker Mom's Allowance drop boxes in selected supermarkets

4. Promotion Period: July 15 to Oct. 12, 2002

5. Raffle Draws:

Draws	Deadline for Entries	Raffle Draw
1st Draw	Aug. 10	Aug. 17
2nd Draw	Sep. 7	Sep. 14
Grand Draw	Oct. 12	Oct. 19

6. Raffle Prizes:
a. 1st Preliminary Draw - Ten (10) lucky Moms (3 from GMA, 2 from Luzon, 3 from Visayas and 2 from Mindanao) will receive P10,000.00 cash allowance per month for 3 months. Aside from the allowances, Fifty (50) Quaker gift packs will be given away.

b. 2nd Preliminary Draw - Ten (10) lucky Moms (3 from GMA, 2 from Luzon, 3 from Visayas and 2 from Mindanao) will receive P10,000.00 cash allowance per month for 3 months. Aside from the allowances, Fifty (50) Quaker gift packs will be given away.

c. Grand Draw - Ten (10) lucky Moms (3 from GMA, 2 from Luzon, 3 from Visayas and 2 from Mindanao) will receive P20,000.00 cash allowance per month for 3 months. Aside from the allowances, One Hundred (100) Quaker gift packs will be given away.

7. Each entry can only win once per draw. If an entry is drawn more than once, participants automatically win the prize with the higher value. Another entry will be re-drawn for the prize with the lower value.

8. All non-winning entries in the preliminary draws will be included in the grand raffle draw.

9. All winning entries will be drawn and validated by representatives of Quaker Oats Asia, Inc, its Advertising/Promo Agency and BFAD.

10. Winners will be notified thru registered mail.

11. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from date of notification letter, will be forfeited, with prior approval of BFAD.

12. Winners must present the registered mail sent to them by Quaker Oats Asia, Inc. together with two (2) legally acceptable evidences of identification.

13. Employees of Quaker Oats Asia, Inc., their affiliates, distributors, advertising and promotional agents, BFAD representatives, as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity are not qualified to join this promotion.

DOH-BFAD # 05385.2002

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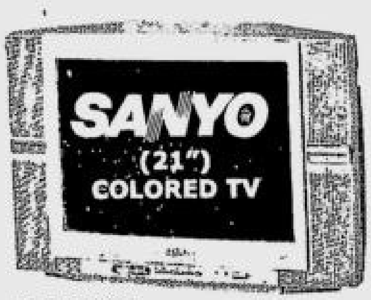

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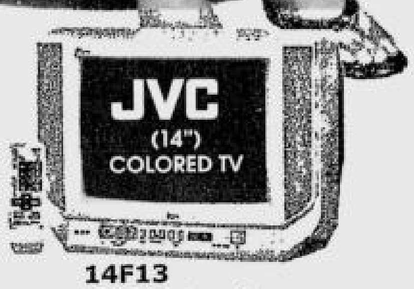

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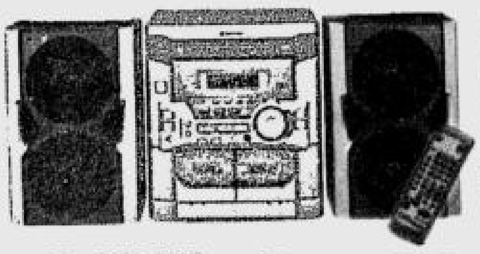

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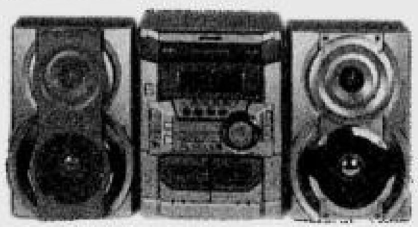

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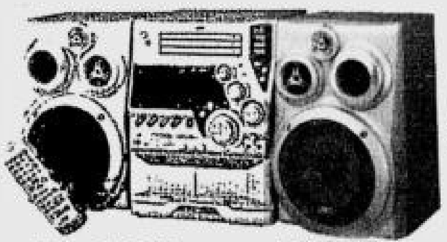

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MX-G750V
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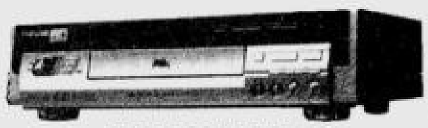

SAMSUNG

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- Full-Karaoke Function
- Auto-Volt

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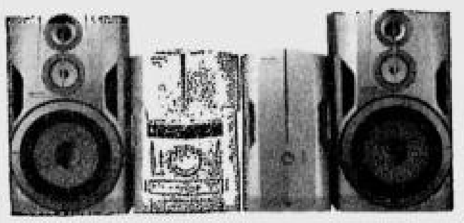

Pioneer

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JVC

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- Dolby Digital 5.1/ MPEG Multi-Channel
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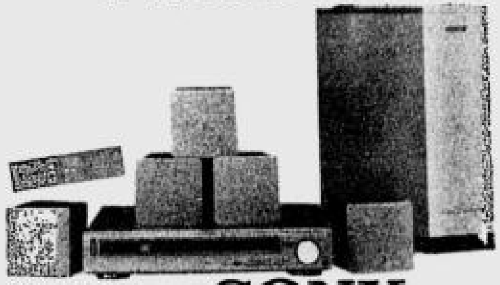

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ROUNDUP

Erratum

The article "Whose's afraid of House Bill 4110" by Frank Cimatu, which appeared on page A7 of the INQUIRER's Tuesday issue should have stated Rep. Monico Puentevella and not Felix William Fuentebella as one of the co-authors of HB 4110 who withdrew authorship of the bill. We regret the error.

New promotion strategy

SEN. Aquilino Pimentel urged the government to redraw its strategy in promoting Philippine products and attracting investors to the country. "The better way to convince investors to trust us is to let people who succeeded on our shores to speak for us," Pimentel said in a statement. Apparently referring to former President Fidel Ramos, the senator said "sending people perceived to have engineered these economic woes" to represent the country before foreign investors "is a one-way ticket to failure." "Let us make our countrymen who succeeded . . . do the talking," he said.

Tariff exemptions

TO HELP raise revenue for the government, Sen. Robert Barbers urged the Bureau of Customs to stop giving special treatment to all economic zones in the country. Barbers said in a statement that the customs bureau should restore the tariff on products brought into the zones. The country's customs code requires that raw materials brought in tax-free into the zones should be turned into finished products within a year or they would be taxed.

Outstanding LGU

AGOO, La Union—This town bagged the 2002 National Literacy Award for Outstanding Local Government Unit for giving priority to literacy, basic education, continuing education and community development programs. The award is a joint project of the Unesco National Commission of the Philippines-Literacy Coordinating Council, the Department of Education's Bureau of Non-formal Education, and private institutions. Agoo, the regional winner for the past two years, was first runner-up in the national search last year for the same category.
Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LTO shop in Pampanga

THE LAND Transportation Office (LTO) will open its One-Stop-Shop at SM City Pampanga in San Fernando on Sept. 27, Friday. The LTO One-Stop-Shop will allow the public, especially those living in Pampanga, to renew their driver's license, get student permit, and renew motor vehicle registration, without having to line up or go to the LTO office. The One-Stop-Shop will be open on weekends.

Kasanggayahan Fest

THE SORSOGON Provincial Tourism Council is inviting all Sorsoganons to the Kasanggayahan Festival from Oct. 13-17 in commemoration of the foundation of the province. The highlight of the celebration is the "Pantomina sa Tinampo" and street party at Rompeolas on Oct. 17. There will also be organized tours to the various historic and tourist sites of the province, like Bagatao Island and the Gibalong Shrine in Magallanes. Hotels and resorts are offering special room rates for the duration of the festival. For details, contact the Sorsogon Provincial Tourism Council at telefax no. (63)056-211-1573 and tel. no. 211-1357.

Coastal clean-up

THE FRIENDS of Balayan Bay, together with Gold Quest International Ltd., The Numismatic Co. and What drives you-Caltex, led coastal clean-up activities on Sept. 21 at Anilao, Mabini, Batangas. This movement aims to reverse two decades of degradation of the Anilao Reef. The towns of Mabini, Bauan and Tingloy in Batangas joined efforts to be part of this environmental awareness campaign, giving birth to The Friends of Balayan Bay.

Ethics training

THE CAGAYAN de Oro Press Club (COPC) has started testing a training module on values and ethics in journalism. The testing, which will run until December, started on Sept. 11 with a seminar on reporting corruption held at the COPC Building in Cagayan de Oro City. The module was developed by COPC with technical assistance from the Australian government. The project aims to develop and sustain the press club members' values, attitudes and skills in exposing and preventing corruption. President Allan Mediante of the Cagayan de Oro Press Club said the activity supports the Philippines-Australia Development Cooperation Program's governance thrust for continuing improvements in democratic processes, particularly in the fight against corruption.

Koronadal honors citizens

THE CITY of Koronadal in South Cotabato will host a Vino de Honor on Oct. 8 at the South Cotabato Gym to pay tribute to the men and women who have brought honor to the city. The event is part of Koronadal's 2nd Charter celebration, which begins on Oct. 6. City officials led by Mayor Fernando Miguel said the three-day Charter celebration starts on Oct. 6 with the Pamukaw sa Dalan, an early morning walk from Barangay Saravia to Poblacion Marbel. On the third day, the people of Koronadal and their guests will be treated to a fireworks display and a Marbeleno Mardi Gras.

Student held hostage

DARAGA, Albay—A Grade 1 pupil from the Bicol University Laboratory School was held hostage while on her way to school at about 7 a.m. Tuesday. The victim was identified as Mikelle Laguilles, 6, from Namantao, Daraga, Albay. The hostage taker was identified as Ivan Mira Valida, 35, from Catbalogan, Samar. Several bystanders tried to rescue Mikelle but Valida threatened to kill the child. Daraga police led by PO3 Alex Moral started negotiating with the suspect, who later got thirsty and while holding the child, tried to get a bottled water from his bag. It was at this point when PO3 Moral grabbed the victim. *Michael Jaucian and Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPA rebels say raid on police station was display of power

DAVAO CITY—Communist guerrillas celebrated what they described as a successful raid on a police station in a town in Compostela Valley, using the town's mayor as a shield and bait to rob the station of more than 30 firearms.

The NPA's Rhyme Petalcorin Command based in Maco said the raid was proof that the communist guerrillas were capable of staging surprise attacks on government targets.

Diomabok Kadyawan, the rebel group's spokesperson, told the INQUIRER that the raid also proved that the NPA is not a spent force.

"It only shows that we are not a spent force as claimed by the military. We have the support of the masses. This successful operation was a result of the cooperation of the people," he said.

Chief Supt. Isidro Lapeña, Southern Mindanao police chief, said that Maco Mayor Miller Alaba was held by the rebels while the mayor was on his way to Barangay Mapaang around 1:30 p.m.

Alaba, he said, was on his way to inspect a barangay hall project when the rebels, led by a certain Eduardo Genelza of the Pulang Bagani Command, blocked his way.

Lapeña said the rebels held Alaba for about four hours and at about 6:30 p.m., they commandeered the mayor's Nissan Safari and brought it to the police station.

A Nissan Mitsubishi L-300 van driven by Genelza's deputy, Melchor Renomeron, tailed Alaba's four-wheel drive vehicle.

Upon reaching a checkpoint near the police station, Alaba presented himself.

At the station, Alaba introduced Renomeron as an Army lieutenant of the 72nd Infantry Battalion.

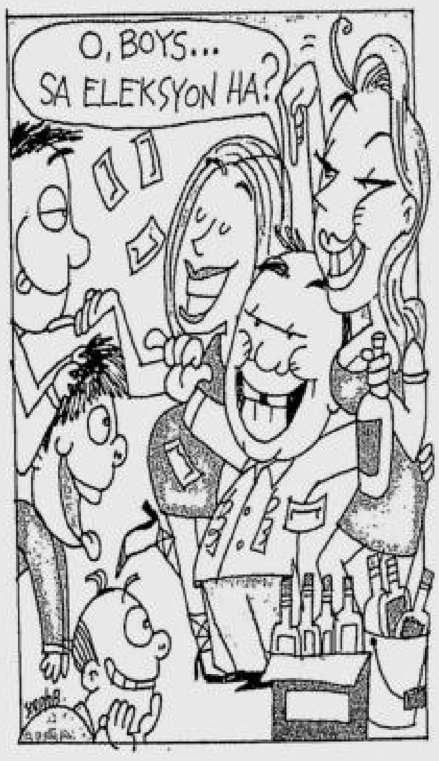
After Alaba introduced Renomeron as an Army lieutenant, the rebels pounced on the policemen manning the police station and seized their firearms.

They also raided the police station's armory according to Lapeña and in about 15 minutes, the rebels were able to seize at least 17 Armalite rifles; three (3) M14 rifles; four (4) Garand rifles; two (2) Carbines; three (3) 9mm pistols; three (3) .38 caliber pistols; one (1) Browning automatic rifle; undetermined number of ammunition and a VHF base radio.

Lapeña said that from the police station, the rebels went to the nearby municipal hall and disarmed the municipal hall's security guard.

After the raid, the rebels released Alaba and escaped toward Mapaang on foot.

Lapeña said the police and the military have launched pursuit operations while an investigation has started on the possible negligence of intelligence operatives in the town. *Ayan Mellejor, Anthony Allada, Ferdinand Zuasola and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*


O, BOYS...
SA ELEKSYON HA?

Elections for head of village captains reek with reports of booze, sex, cash

MATI, Davao Oriental—Sex, money and alcohol.

These were what candidates in the recently concluded election for the presidency of the Association of Barangay Captains in the province's municipalities used to succeed in their bids.

Supt. Catalino Cuy, provincial police director, said he found out about it after the police became alarmed on the mysterious disappearance of barangay captains here before the Sept. 15 ABC elections.

"Practically all barangay officials in the province were nowhere to be found. Later, I was told they were all in posh hotels in Davao City but not to tackle the main concerns of their barangays," he said.

Cuy said ABC candidates hid barangay officials in Davao City and pampered them with "girls, money and alcohol."

He said barangay officials who received pampering from candidates "were very happy."

"So far, no one has complained to me because practically, everyone did it. They buy votes, they provided girls," Cuy said.

A barangay official, who requested anonymity, confirmed that vote-buying in the ABC elections was not a new thing.

"But this year was different. This was the first time that prostitutes were offered to court votes," the 67-year-old source said.

But he swore that he was not among those who accepted the bribes.

"I did not take the offer because in the first place, that was immoral. What if our young leaders would also do that? What do you think will happen to our country? Disaster," he said.

Another barangay official said he was expecting that the race for the ABC presidency in the provincial level would be more exciting.

He said unlike the Sept. 15 elections, where cash ranged from P5,000 to P10,000, candidates might be determined to spend more.

"That perhaps (would be) more exciting. There will be more money, more girls and more drinks will be offered. Because if you win in that level, you will automatically become a member of the provincial board," the official said.

"*Basta sabi ko sa kanila huwag lang kayong magpatayan* (I just admonished them not to kill each other)," Cuy said. *Ferdinand Zuasola with a report from Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Another kidnapping hits Angeles City

ANGELES CITY—A female college student, kidnapped here on Wednesday, escaped from her abductors on Thursday morning and stopped the payment of what could have been a multimillion-peso ransom, a police source said.

The student, a senior at the Holy Angel University here and a resident of the City of San Fernando, saw the chance to escape after her kidnappers got drunk.

"What she did was a rare show of courage," the police official, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER.

According to the source, the student was abducted in Barangay Balibago here at about 5 p.m. Wednesday.

She escaped from the suspects' safehouse in this city at past 6 a.m. Thursday. She went to her relatives in this city who helped her report the kidnapping to the police.

"She was in trauma and underwent debriefing (on Thursday) morning," the source said.

According to the source, investigators have found at the safehouse some leads on the identities of the kidnappers.

It was the second kidnapping reported in this city this week.

On Monday, a kidnap syndicate believed based in Tarlac City abducted the nine-year-old son of a politician-businessman in this city.

The boy was released on Tuesday night after his parents paid P700,000 in ransom, according to Senior Supt. Angelito Pacia, Angeles City police director.

The latest kidnapping brought to four the number of kidnap victims in this city since January. The other victims were two Filipino-Chinese engaged in retail and poultry businesses.

Police asked schools to enforce tighter security to prevent kidnappings. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Farmers urged to keep peace

BRAGANZA

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza yesterday appealed for sobriety among the heirs of businessman Roberto Benedicto and a group of farmers who are feuding over ownership of a Negros Occidental hacienda covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Braganza, in a statement, asked both parties to refrain from engaging in violence and settle their dispute amicably with the help of DAR field personnel pending the final decision of the court over the issue.

Braganza made the appeal following Monday's violent confrontation between the security guards of the Benedicto heirs and members of the Nagasi Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Nagasi) at the contested property.

The security guards reportedly prevented the Nagasi farmers from harvesting sugarcane in the area, prompting one of the farmers to hack the arm of a guard with a machete.

The 564-hectare Benedicto property was covered by CARP in 1996 and distributed to 182 farmers who had been tilling the land for years.

5 kids die in fires in 2 western Cebu towns

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Five children were killed in separate fires that hit two western Cebu town on Monday and Tuesday.

Neighbors found the bodies of Ellenvic Fajardo, 6 and her siblings—Steven, 3 and Emmanuel, 11 months—embracing each other after fire gutted their house on Monday night in Toledo City, about 50 kilometers west of this city.

On Tuesday, two children were killed after they were trapped inside their burning house in Asturias town, about 71 kilometers west of Cebu City.

Fire investigators suspected that the three Fajardo children were locked in the house by their mother shortly after the fire broke out at 8 a.m. on Monday in Sitio Losing, Barangay Luay, Toledo.

Eulalia Fajardo, 34, left the children along to watch over her farm animals. Her five-year-old daughter went with her.

Her husband Victorio, 35, saw the fire was eating up his house but it took him several minutes to get there because he was gathering *tuba* (wine made of coconut) atop a coconut tree, a few meters away.

SFO1 Celso Berido of the Toledo City Fire department said the cause of the fire has yet to be established but he suspected that the children were playing with matches.

Like the Fajardo children, the parents of Adel Bugto, 5 and his brother Johnrel, 3, were outside when fire broke out about 8:20 p.m. on Tuesday in Barangay Langub.

Insp. Eliakim Awit, Asturias chief of police, said the victim's father Alfeo was working at that time. Their mother, Delia, was fetching water.

They asked their two older children to watch over their younger brothers but the two left the house.

DENR sues mayor, 18 others for cutting of trees

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) here filed on Wednesday a complaint for illegal cutting of trees against Don Salvador Benedicto town Mayor Cynthia de la Cruz, her husband Nehemias and 17 others before the Negros Occidental Prosecutor's Office.

They were accused of illegally cutting 130,548 cubic meters of naturally grown trees worth P1,660,570 inside the Northern Negros Forest Reserve in Barangay Bagong Silang, Don Salvador Benedicto, about 47 kilometers northwest of here.

Severino Llamas, Bacolod Cenro officer, said the 19 were charged with violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Mayor Cynthia de la Cruz denied that her family was involved in illegal logging, saying that they had been working to develop the town since its creation in 1983.

She described as "unfair" the charges filed against them as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) failed to get their side before filing the complaint.

She warned that her family might file a case for damages against those who besmirched their reputation.

"This is a painful joke on us and is hurting our children," she said. "They have not only hurt our reputation in Negros Occidental but in the entire Philippines."

Aside from the De la Cruz couple, also named in the complaint were former Don Salvador Benedicto Vice Mayor and now Municipal Councilor David Pontillano; and Vicente Bacordo, the town's Association of Barangay Captains president.

The other charged were Eden Bacordo, Feliciano Likoan, alias Totong Likoan, Vivencio Catalogo, Eleazor Catalogo, Roger Campus, Romeo Señeres, Domingo Endico, Efraim Lagos, Blas Bacole Jr., Fernando Campos, alias Daku and three still unidentified persons.

Based on the complaint, Bacordo, on instructions of the De la Cruz couple, allegedly ordered the cutting of trees in the forest area from 1995 to 2002.

The complaint also alleged that Nehemias de la Cruz gave an order in April 2001 to cut trees in the forest reserve.

Two months later, the De la Cruz couple allegedly possessed more than 1,000 board feet of naturally grown trees that were used as materials for their furniture shop, which was being operated in their home in Stonehouse, Barangay Igmaya-an, Don Salvador Benedicto.

Mayor De la Cruz admitted that it has always been her husband's hobby to manufacture furniture even before he retired from politics.

But she stressed that the materials used came from railroad ties, not naturally grown trees as alleged.

Her husband was the town's first mayor. He held the post from 1983 to 1986 and from 1988 to 1995. His wife took over the mayoral post in 1995 and is now on her third term.

Garchitorena quits Sandiganbayan post

From page A1

In a three-page letter to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Garchitorena admitted that his continued stay "may not be the most salutary situation."

"To keep the issue any longer in the public view will not be beneficial to the judiciary nor to the entire judicial process in the country. I respectfully submit that this situation is not salutary to the judiciary as a whole and that it would be best to remove the problem altogether, namely myself," he said.

He then asked the high court that he "be allowed to retire optionally effective at the close of office hours of Sept. 27, 2002" to spare the judiciary from further negative criticisms.

If his application for optional retirement is accepted, the 64-year-old Garchitorena will retire six years ahead of the mandatory retirement age for court officials.

Garchitorena faced the risk of being sacked from the Sandiganbayan after the high court threatened on Sept. 11 to impose disciplinary action on him if he failed to clear his backlog of pending cases by the end of the month.

A source in the high court said Garchitorena had opted to resign as a face-saving measure to avert further public humiliation because he would not be able to resolve all the remaining cases within two weeks.

A high court confidante prodded him last week to retire ahead of the Sept. 30 deadline so that the Supreme Court would not impose harsher penalties on him, according to the source.

Forfeiture of benefits

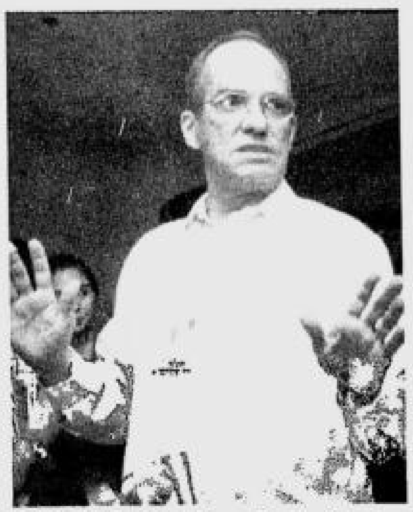
Besides being terminated, Garchitorena faces the prospect of suffering from severe penalties like forfeiture of his retirement benefits and perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

Garchitorena admitted that he only resolved 21 of the total of 43 cases "which were properly his, as well as those which were assigned by the (Supreme Court) in its Resolution of Nov. 28, 2001."

Of the 21 ponencias (decisions), 13 were completed and promulgated in the six-month period from Dec. 1, 2001. The other eight decisions were already completed but, he said, only acting Presiding Justice Gregory S. Ong had concurred with the decisions.

"Under the circumstances, however, considering the apparently 22 cases still to be disposed of, the undersigned respectfully submits that he cannot reasonably comply with this Honorable Court's deadline fixed for Sept. 30, 2002 despite all the effort which he has exerted and continues to exert," he said.

Garchitorena claimed that he was also finishing the drafts for other cases "which are undergoing further review and finalization."



A WAY out of a backlog of cases for Sandigan Justice Francis Garchitorena.

EDWIN BACASMAS

"In the interest of public service and for the greater good of the judiciary, I respectfully pray that my request for optional retirement be approved," he said in his letter.

"Considering this fairly sudden turn of events, may I pray additionally that the co-terminus members of my staff be granted an extended stay of up to Oct. 31, 2002 so that they might be able to make the appropriate arrangements for their own future in an orderly fashion," he added.

Garchitorena said that over the last 10 months from the time he was suspended on Nov. 28, "this matter has attracted public attention, which has been difficult for me. More significant, however, is the unfavorable attention it has put upon the higher levels of the judiciary and an even stronger focus upon the appellate courts."

The perennial backlog of cases in the anti-graft court, including the still-unresolved Marcos ill-gotten cases, has been blamed in part on Garchitorena, who spent a total of 16 years in the Sandiganbayan.

Reached on the phone by the INQUIRER, Garchitorena confirmed he wrote the letter but declined to discuss its contents lest he be "discourteous" to the Supreme Court.

But he wanted to set one record straight: That of the cases he would be leaving unresolved, none concerned the recovery of alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses or their cronies.

On Sept. 11, in a six-page full court resolution, the Supreme Court gave Garchitorena an ultimatum as it junked his renewed plea to extend the deadline.

Foot surgery

Garchitorena had presented as excuses for his failure to dispose of the cases the surgical procedures on his foot, his continuing indisposition, "as well as the rains in July, which resulted in the periodic absences of some of (my) staff."

But the Supreme Court said the resolution of Aug. 13, 2002 giving Garchitorena a non-extendible period of up to Sept. 30 "is maintained."

The tribunal considered "unsatisfactory" Garchitorena's explanations for his failure to give priority to cases "that are included in the list of cases assigned to him." He was ordered to submit in five days duly authenticated medical certificates attesting to the surgical procedures on his foot in January and July.

The Supreme Court also directed the Sandiganbayan to ascertain the discrepancy between the date of promulgation of the decisions penned by Garchitorena and an audit conducted by the Office of the Court Administrator.

Garchitorena admitted that he had yet to decide on 37 priority cases. The number tallied with the Office of the Court Administrator report, except for the dates the cases were submitted for resolution.

The high court relieved Garchitorena last year of his duties as Sandiganbayan presiding justice and chair of the anti-graft court's First Division to give him time to "write" decisions. It gave Garchitorena six months to decide 43 pending cases. The total number of his pending cases was initially pegged at more than a hundred, but most of them had been consolidated.

The Supreme Court found out that from Nov. 29, 2001 to July 18, 2002, Garchitorena managed to decide on 14 cases out of the 43 cases assigned to him, leaving 29 cases unresolved.

GMA pa . . .

From page A1

hospital in his memory.

The naming game is far from over.

For the man who often went barefoot to school and who finished his law studies through the generosity of his benefactors, the Central Luzon Association of Regional Officers named a scholarship program for indigent students in his memory.

Face, too

The late President's face and name also appear in the obverse of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' new P200 bill. The bill's reverse showing Ms Macapagal being sworn into office stirred the large part of the controversy.

In Arayat, Pampanga, the dam constructed by the Japanese-funded Pampanga Delta Development Project will be inaugurated as the "Cong Dadong Dam."

On Thursday, the eve of the 92nd birth anniversary of the "Poor Boy from Lubao," Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez expressed concern over the association of the late President's name with scandals.

He said the former President's name was linked to the allegedly overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in the Manila Bay reclamation area. He said the "highly onerous" Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 Project of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) would affect the development of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Overshadow achievements

Rodriguez said these scandals tended to overshadow the achievements of "Cong Dadong."

"What worthy deeds Cong Dadong did during his lifetime may be lost in the memory of young people or overshadowed by the allegations of wrongdoings in these projects," Rodriguez said.

"I think it's very unfair to dishonor the reputation of a President who has not one even graft record to his name," he said, noting that the allegations were coming from the political opposition.

To Isabela Lumanog, 87, structures do not make her remember "Cong Dadong."

"It is his humility," she said.

Both acting in zarzuelas during their youthful years in their hometown Lubao, Lumanog said: "Dadong and I and the rest of the cast ate from the same washbasin because we had no plates."

They starred in the long-running zarzuela, "New Jerusalem," which the late President and his father, Urbano, wrote.

The parents of corn vendor Diosdada Doria admired "Cong Dadong" so much that they christened her with the female version of his name, which means "Godsent."

The shack

To the late President's daughter (by his first wife), former Pampanga Vice Gov. Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, said the best place that speaks of her father's life is a humble shack in Barangay San Nicolas in Lubao.

"There was no money—one peso would have been enough—even to buy nipa with which to patch the leaks in the roof of our shack. On rainy days, we stayed awake or slept fitfully as virtually every part of the bamboo flooring was soaking wet," the late President wrote of that hut.

Repaired on a P70,000-grant from the National Historical Institute, the hut is now visited by students on tour of historical sites.

A mural next to the hut also depicts his struggle against poverty and his political career as congressman, vice president and President.

The late President is rightly credited for moving the celebration of the country's Independence Day from July 4 to June 12, the date Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, the first President of the Philippine Republic, proclaimed independence from Spain.

Still, others wryly remember the elder Macapagal for his policies on import liberalization and foreign exchange deregulation.

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Mei Tiangco with some beneficiaries of Bisig Bayan.
'Yan ang alagang Pharex
Sa simula pa lang, naniniwala na ang Pharex
na ang taos-pusong pangangalaga ay walang
pinipiling oras o panahon. Kahit kailan, maaasahan.
Isang magandang halimbawa ay si Mei Tiangco,
na matagal nang nagiilingkod sa labas ng newsroom -
kahit ano pang sungit ng panahon o tindi ng trahedya.

Gaya nga ng Pharex Medicines.
Tumaas man ang presyo ng bilihin o tumama man ang kung anong krisis,
maaasahang mananatiling abot-kaya ang presyo
ng Pharex Medicines. At umaraw man o bumagyo, sigurado
ang bisa at kalidad ng Pharex Medicines. Kaya naman
noon hanggang ngayon, pinagkakatiwalaan
na ng mga doktor at pasyente ang alagang Pharex!
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Legal expert questions SC ruling on MJ

From page A1

so far superior," he said. "I believe that (whether bail is necessary in an extradition case) is discretionary with the judge."

Bernas said the only time the Supreme Court could reverse a decision of a lower court was if there was grave abuse of discretion. "In this case," he noted, "there was not even any mention of grave abuse."

He also said the eight justices who voted in favor of canceling Jimenez's P1-million bail were "concerned with the flight factor."

"Mark Jimenez arrived in the country in 1998. The extradition request was made (by the US government) in 1999. With a difference of ... one year, it's hard to imagine flight," he pointed out.

Bernas said it would be interesting to note that the four justices appointed most recently were among those who voted for denial of bail for Jimenez.

"If this were decided before they were appointed to the Supreme Court, the decision could have gone the other way," he said.

"It seemed that they were swayed by the possibility of Jimenez's flight," Bernas added.

Associate Justices Renato Corona and Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez assumed office on April 12. Associate Justices Conchita Carpio-Morales and Romeo J. Callejo Sr. were reported appointed on Aug. 29.

Commenting on Perez's statement Wednesday that he would not hesitate to clap Jimenez in the notorious Manila City Jail, Bernas pointed out that the City Jail inmates were convicted criminals.

JOAQUIN BERNAS, SJ: You can't put Jimenez in jail with convicted criminals. He has not yet been convicted.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'Congressional arrogance'

"(The congressman) has not yet been convicted, and this is an extradition. Until now he is presumed innocent. There are other approaches more appropriate," Bernas said.

In Baguio City, the chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) said he was ready to defend Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and the seven other justices whom congressmen had threatened with impeachment for ordering Jimenez's bail cancelled.

"It is time to draw the line on this show of congressional arrogance," human rights lawyer Pablito Sanidad told the INQUIRER. "Instead of merely talking, I challenge the congressmen to immediately file impeachment charges against the justices, and I will defend them."

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay had earlier said that "if there is culpable violation of the Constitution that will warrant impeachment, I'm sure a lot of our colleagues will file an impeachment complaint."

Sanidad said Jimenez had clouded the politics surrounding ousted President Joseph Estrada's ongoing plunder case by arguing that the Bill of Rights protected him from the ruling issued by the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

But Sanidad said the support for Jimenez's civil rights would not draw FLAG lawyers into a debate.

"Detention during an extradition case is a mere administrative function" that has been practiced for decades by most countries, he said.

"If (the congressmen) want to assert that right, why don't they go and bellow loudly at the US government for detaining (Charlie) 'Atong' Ang," he said in reference to Estrada's former associate, who is detained in a California prison pending his extradition to the Philippines. "Ang has been detained for months now. Let them file the impeachment complaint against the justices so we can move on."

"In the first place," he added, "why are we debating the fate of (this friend of Estrada)?"

Jimenez, whom Estrada once described as a "corporate genius" for brokering large business deals, served as his adviser on Latin American affairs.

Sanidad is a lawyer of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson in Estrada's plunder trial and one of the key prosecutors during the ousted President's aborted impeachment trial in 2001.

Simplification

But other lawyers cautioned human rights advocates against "simplifying" Jimenez's case.

A member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Baguio said civil rights lawyers "will not want the high court to come out with another precedent ruling that will explicitly define the supremacy of a US treaty over the Philippine Constitution."

"The Left is ready to file a case against (the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty)," said the lawyer who requested anonymity. "If the Supreme Court says a treaty (like the RP-US extradition treaty) overrules the Constitution, then the Left may find itself facing the same legal quandary. Or they will simply be defeated because of the decision on Jimenez."

The lawyer said the House's sudden concern for the Bill of Rights could trigger an "unexpected but welcome backlash" against an "unconstitutional" pet legislation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Now that a congressman's rights are at stake, and every congressman is citing the Bill of Rights, maybe they won't mind dropping four dangerous bills on anti-terrorism," he said.

Earlier, lawyer Edre Olalia, executive director of the Public Interest Law Center, told the INQUIRER that the anti-terrorism measures filed by Senators Panfilo Lacson and Robert Barbers, and Representatives Imee Marcos (Ilocos Norte), Robert Ace Barbers (Surigao del Norte), and Joseph Felix Durano (Cebu City) violated civil rights jurisprudence.

Mark Jimenez rejects bid for House custody

From page A1

Purganan issued the warrant last year but it was not served because he allowed Jimenez to post bail.

"We (will arrest Jimenez) because we believe that his (extradition) case is summary in nature and, therefore, one will not wait for finality of the tribunal's decision. We will proceed with the enforcement of the decision," Perez said in an ambush interview.

But Jimenez said he would fight for his right to post bail for his extradition case.

He expressed hope that the tribunal would reconsider its ruling to prevent a crisis. "Is a person bailable or not? That in itself is a crisis," he said.

Jimenez refused to comment on whether he thought the ruling was related to his refusal to make damaging testimony against ousted President Joseph Estrada. He said this would be a deviation from the central issue of bail.

Asked if he remained open to testifying against Estrada, Jimenez said: "I really don't know. That is not a priority."

At the House, Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico, author of a resolution supporting Jimenez, laughed at Perez's hold-departure order.

"I don't think (Jimenez) will flee to the US because it is the US which is after him," Suplico said.

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama asked why the administration was putting the heat on Jimenez when it had dragged its feet on the extradition from Canada of Arturo Pacificador, the suspected mastermind in the killing of opposition leader Evelio Javier in 1986.

"We are raising money to save convicted Filipinos in Saudi, but Congressman Jimenez is not even convicted of any crime in the country and we want to send him to jail," Villarama said.

Summary proceeding

Jimenez the other night told the INQUIRER that he could not be arrested just yet because the high court's ruling was not executory. He said that under the law, he could still seek reconsideration within 15 days.

But Perez said: "Our theory is that the motion of reconsideration will not suspend the issuance of the warrant of arrest because this is a summary proceeding. This is not a normal criminal or civil action where we have the luxury of time."

To the statement of Wille Purisima, Purganan's clerk of court, that the warrant could not be issued until after 15 days, he said: "That is the clerk of court's stand. The clerk of court is not a judge. And there is no motion yet. And the clerk of court should not preempt the decision of the judge. The warrant of arrest stands. So we'll just ask it to be implemented."

Perez said Jimenez would be accorded the "courtesy and respect" befitting a member of Congress once NBI agents served the arrest warrant.

"We will give him the dignity that fits his office, no handcuffs. He will not be treated as an ordinary criminal," the justice secretary said.

Perez said the congressmen assailing the tribunal's ruling "should not be questioning the authority of the Supreme Court."

"The justices did not violate the Constitution," he said. "And the Supreme Court is the one called upon to interpret (laws) and the Constitution."

Perez added: "I have a lot of respect for members of Congress, and I love and respect the House of Representatives. After all, I came from the House. But I would want to stress the fact that if we are going to talk about separation of powers, then we should not interfere with the decision of the Supreme Court."

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco told reporters in a separate interview that there would be no special treatment for Jimenez.

"There will be no special detention center," Wycoco said. "If and when the warrant is issued, he will be held in an NBI detention cell occupied by five other (persons involved in extradition cases)."

He identified the five as Asuncion Espina, wanted in the United States for double murder; Conrado Fiel, murder; Nelson Marquez, frustrated murder; Danilo Reyes, sexual molestation; and Nilbert de la Cruz, murder.

But Wycoco said Interpol agents would have to "do everything in accordance with the law, observing the dignity of the person (to be arrested)."

He said his men were under strict orders not to arrest Jimenez until the Manila RTC released to them a copy of the standing warrant.

"As of now, he has 15 days to seek a reconsideration of the high court's decision," Wycoco said. "But it is possible that the judge can order the arrest. Whatever the court says, we will follow."

No deal

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said there would be no compromise deal with Jimenez.

Bunye was reacting to reports that Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio had offered to stall Jimenez's extradition if he would testify against Estrada.

"I'm not sure if (Gervacio) would be in a position to negotiate for and in behalf of the Philippines because we're guided by the (RP-US extradition) treaty," he said. "I'm not sure if there's room to negotiate within the treaty without involving other parties."

Bunye, a former congressman, also dismissed the plan of Jimenez's sympathizers in the House to amend the treaty in his favor.

He said amending the treaty signed in November 1994 would "take a long time because that will require the mutual consent of both parties."

"We just have to go by what the Supreme Court says. It is the final arbiter as far as the law is concerned," he added.

Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said Jimenez could not leave the country even if he had a passport.

Ebdalin said, however, that he was not aware of the current status of Jimenez's passport. He said he knew that the Department of Foreign Affairs had earlier cancelled the passport, and that Jimenez's lawyer, Estelito Mendoza, had requested the DFA to reconsider the move.

Ebdalin said the hold-departure order on Jimenez would suffice to prevent flight.

Coddling

The Peoples' Organization for the Preservation of Laws and Ethical Standards (or Peoples), a coalition of anti-corruption advocates, called for Jimenez's speedy arrest.

"Congress, instead of coddling Jimenez, must instead ensure that his long-delayed extradition is not derailed by undue influence," Peoples spokesperson Lulu del Rosario said.

She said Peoples did not believe that Jimenez's arrest would lead to a constitutional crisis, as some congressmen had warned.

Del Rosario also pointed out that Jimenez was still facing electoral protests filed with the House Electoral Tribunal.

The NBI's Wycoco said that as in the case of Estrada, the number 13 has proved be unlucky for Jimenez.

According to Wycoco, Jimenez is the 13th person to be subjected to extradition to the United States since the treaty was signed.

NBI spokesperson Ricardo Diaz said Jimenez could make things easier for himself by voluntarily agreeing to extradition.

Diaz said five persons had done so and two of them, Victor Emmanuel Jacinto and Rodolfo Seguban, were subsequently ordered released by US courts. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Christine Avendano, Jerome Aning and Philip C. Tubeza*

TWO DEFENSE CHIEFS: A farewell to arms from Taiwan on the occasion of the visit of Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian here shown with his Filipino counterpart, Angelo Reyes.

JOAN BONDOC

FOR LOVE OF ABAD A love letter to a former boss carpets the entrance of the NFA office in Quezon City to mark its 30th anniversary. Employees and farmer groups plan a mass action to retain "resigned" NFA administrator, Anthony Robert Abad.

JOAN BONDOC

RETAIN
RECALL
REJECT

Gov't moves to secure PEA papers

From page A1

the eight-lane asphalt road named after the father of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Whistle-blower Sulficio Tagud Jr., a PEA director, said key management officials should also be relieved of their posts because they were the "most culpable." He said the PEA management had misled "innocent" members of the board.

But he said that PEA Chair Ernest Villareal was on top of the project and that Director Rodolfo Tuazon insisted on approving the cost adjustments of the contract awarded to the Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction (JDLC).

In the House of Representatives, the minority has filed a resolution calling for an investigation of the so-called "Road to Perdition" scam. House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico and Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said there was an urgent need for Congress to investigate the road project because of its scandalously exorbitant price.

Padilla said his group also wanted the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to be included in the inquiry. A P1-billion loan from the GSIS financed the project. Before this, PEA obtained a P300-million loan from Land Bank of the Philippines for the same project.

Militant groups said it was not enough for officials of the PEA to resign or go on leave.

"The resignation and leave-taking are not enough to make this issue die down. A thorough and impartial investigation should be immediately conducted and should not exempt anyone, including the President," Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said.

Paper trail

He said Ms Macapagal should give her own account of how the contract was finalized "because a paper trail leads straight to her own doorstep." The PEA is a government corporation under the Office of the President.

"The President's appointees in the PEA made sure that the revisions (to the contract) came one at a time to allow loopholes," Beltran said. "The more revisions in the contract, the more chances for corruption."

Beltran claimed that the PEA was not allowed to incur loans. Under the Public Land Act, the PEA is not vested with the right to sell or use land as collateral. Neither is it authorized to sell land to corporations but only to lease it.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas assailed Malacañang's decision to refer the PDMB controversy to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC). "We expect a cut-and-paste investigation from the PAGC to clear the names of presidential scum bugs involved in this multimillion-peso corruption," KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos said.

Ramos said Malacañang's decision was in direct contrast to the people's clamor for an independent investigation. "Both houses of Congress should move faster and investigate the project because a Palace-led whitewash is at work," Ramos said.

"The PAGC is nothing but a political machinery formed to demolish and humiliate political opponents within the administration, just like how Ms Macapagal used the PAGC against former Education Secretary Raul Roco."

But this early Malacañang washed its hands of any responsibility in the alleged overprice of the road in the Manila bay reclamation area. "The alleged variation orders have not been referred to the Office of the President," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Tagud said that while the project was approved and awarded to the JDLC in 1999 during the term of then President Joseph Estrada, the "price escalation" was done by the new PEA board appointed by Ms Macapagal.

Bunye also sought to dissociate the President's approval of the P1-billion loan that the GSIS extended to the project. "The approval process for the alleged variation orders under the new PEA board is separate and distinct from the GSIS-PEA loan agreement," Bunye said.

The President approved the loan in a June 7 letter signed by Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz. Cruz was originally designated by the President to investigate the alleged scam. He inhibited himself from the case and referred the matter to the PAGC.

Bunye described the GSIS loan to the PEA as a normal "government-to-government transaction that underwent the established procedure for review."

He noted that the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Finance and the Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs gave their respective "favorable recommendations" before the loan arrangement was submitted for final approval by the President.

Briefing for Datumanong

Datumanong arrived at the PEA office just as Theron Lacson, PEA deputy general manager for finance, was settling in as the OIC appointed by members of the PEA board before they went on leave the other night.

"We're trying to normalize things here . . . We hope we can get over this (scandal) as soon as possible," Lacson said an hour before Datumanong took over.

FIRST order of the day for DPWH Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

PEA General Manager Benjamin Cariño, one of the directors who were ordered to go on leave, had just turned over his office to Lacson when Datumanong arrived. Cariño said he did not know that Malacañang had appointed a new OIC until Datumanong was on his way to the PEA office. Datumanong said he was informed about his designation as OIC Wednesday night.

Mildred Casugog, executive assistant to the PEA chair, said Lacson and Cariño gave Datumanong a briefing on all PEA projects and the GOCC's mandate. He will receive a special briefing on the PDMB project today.

Datumanong said he would study Tagud's proposal that other PEA officials involved in the overprice be relieved or asked to go on leave.

Tagud said he had heard that the PEA management was "very happy" when only the members of the board were told to go on leave. "They should be the ones out of the PEA," he said.

Tagud said asking the board to go on leave might not be enough to get to the bottom of the "most expensive road" in the country.

"What is really necessary is to relieve the whole management team because they misled the board," Tagud told the INQUIRER.

The PEA management—the general manager down to the project engineers—were the ones dealing with the contractor and making recommendations to the board, according to Tagud. He mentioned PEA Deputy Manager Manuel Beriña Jr., Lacson, Assistant General Manager Jaime Millan, Technical Services Manager Bernardo Viray, and Legal Manager Cristina Mortel.

Besides, Beriña and Lacson have pending graft charges in the Sandiganbayan in connection with the earlier PEA-Amari, according to Tagud.

Cariño said the PEA managers were not averse to going on leave. "They are thinking about it but at the same time they are very concerned about paralyzing the operations of PEA," he said.

Corruption in PEA 'always emanated from the top'

By Juliet L. Javellana

PEA marketing manager Jose Agustin Cuenco said middle managers and employees of the agency were hoping that the investigation of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard would lead to meaningful reforms in the agency.

"It shouldn't end with the board stepping down," Cuenco said. "There should be reforms, mechanisms in place to minimize, if not totally eliminate, graft in the agency."

Cuenco, who has been with PEA for 15 years, said the employees and other officials were experiencing scandal fatigue. "Why is PEA so scandal-prone?" Cuenco asked. He said the new officials or the same board should not make the same mistakes.

Cuenco said corruption in the agency "always emanated from the top."

"When there is abuse of discretion, no oversight and no transparency, when the institutions are weak and there are technicalities in the interpretation of contracts, these provide a conducive environment for graft," Cuenco said.

That is why, he said, the employees had asked the President to conduct a lifestyle check on her appointees. He said this was because the PEA had unpaid benefits to employees amounting to P37 million. Cuenco said there should also be a strong employees union to check the excesses of officials.

He said the PEA employees were "committed to reforms" and were looking forward to the investigation." Since the field is clear, we can cooperate with investigators. I'm sure there will be a lot of employees who will step forward (with information)," he said.

He said the investigation should be swift so that the guilty would be punished and the innocent comforted.

Cuenco said the PEA was a small agency with a very powerful charter. "It's in property development. It manages huge properties," he said. The PEA manages the 1,500-ha reclamation area which is being developed into a P150-billion "Bay City."

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KL to appeal rape case

From page A1

sometimes submitted to their aggressor out of fear.

"The fact that the perpetrator was a uniformed (officer) increased the possibility of compliance by the survivors," four local women's groups said in a joint statement. "It also does not require a bruise or the victim to scream for help to make it a crime."

In Manila, Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda yesterday assailed the "insensitivity" of Mohamed "to rule out rape just because the victims supposedly did not fight off their attackers and did not sustain bruises."

"The outcry raised by Malaysian women's rights groups over this travesty of justice merely shows that many people still do not understand the dynamics of rape," the senator said in a statement.

"Sex between a person who wields power, like this policeman, and those under his control, in this case the inmates, can never be consensual," she added.

Mohamed had said prosecutors failed to prove that the women were raped because they did not scream and removed their own clothes. He also said that the incident took place in a "brightly lit place," and that Razali was clearly seen wearing his uniform with his name tag visible.

But Legarda said "the judge may have surely erred in not considering that threat and intimidation were employed by the jailor to force the inmates to have sex with him."

She said the incident gave credence to the complaints of some Filipinos expelled from Sabah that they had been raped by Malaysian policemen, and urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to consider itself forewarned as to how Malaysian courts operated.

Malaysia launched a crackdown in August on hundreds of thousands of illegal workers—mostly from neighboring Indonesia and the Philippines—which triggered official protests after reports of mistreatment of those arrested.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad promised a full investigation into one claim—that Malaysian police had raped a 13-year-old Filipino girl in a detention camp—after Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo telephoned him to complain. *Reports from AP; Rocky Nazareno*

For Nazis in love, it's Mr. Rightist

From page A1

it can be even worse.

But now help is at hand. Far-right lonely hearts in Austria are turning to a specialist romantic website to find partners who share their extremist political ideas.

Germania Flirt is a website for far-rightists, neo-Nazis and German nationalists from Austria, Switzerland and Germany who want to find that special someone with whom to share the sweeter side of life.

"Seeking a Germanic-Nordic girl aged 18-28 from the southern German region," writes 28-year-old Andreas, an academic from Tyrol in western Austria, who has short blond hair, gray-green eyes and is a German nationalist.

"You should be German nationalist or rightwing and have a certain class (no skinhead birds please). It would be best if you belong to the social elite, but you can just be an ordinary girl as long as your character is similar to mine," continues Andreas, who is shy, romantic, intelligent, active, chivalrous and has a wide range of interests.

"I myself am well-educated, many-sided, ambitious, sporting, muscular and fear God and absolutely nothing and no one else (in the Bismarck tradition)," he adds.

"Seeking a nice young blond girl for weekend activities, exchanging ideas, visiting museums, autumn strolls and other things," writes 39-year-old Holger from Vienna, who is interested in Viking, Scandinavian and German history.

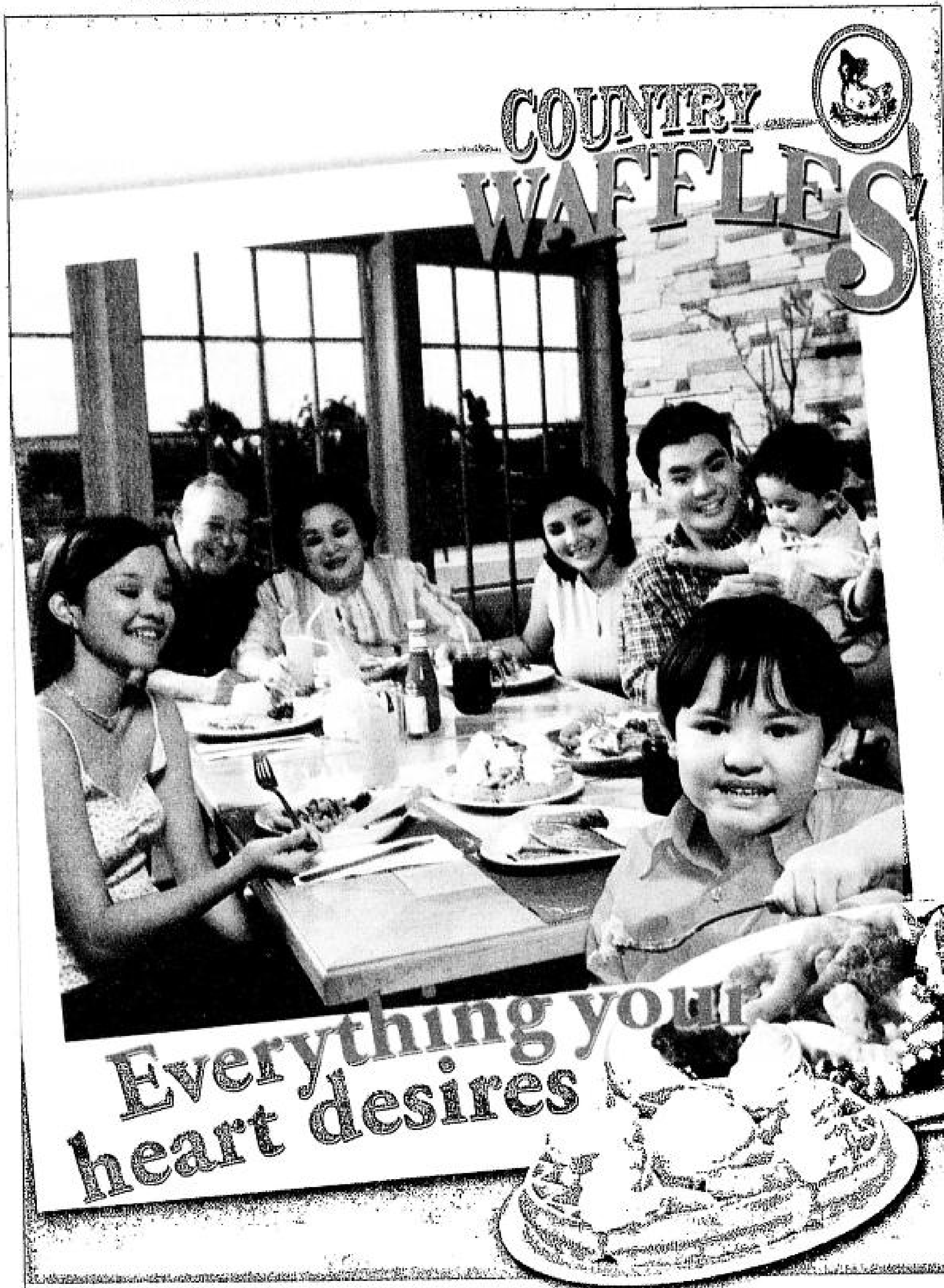
Non-smoking Holger has blond hair, hazel eyes, votes for the far-right Austrian Freedom Party and enjoys listening to Led Zeppelin and Deep Purple. He offers to show slides of his recent trip to Scandinavia "in the Vikings' footsteps" to any interested ladies.

Julia-Alexa, a 19-year-old blond waitress from Vienna, is looking for her "Mr. Reich" on Germania Flirt.

"Nineteen-year-old girl seeks nationalist-minded bloke from Vienna who is not just looking for one thing!" she writes in her lonely heart advertisement.

"Seeking a German man who is big, Germanic and muscular to do something together," writes 20-year-old student Gudrun, who has blue eyes, blond hair and comes from Innsbruck in western Austria.

She says she votes for the Freedom Party and her favorite singer is the ultra-nationalist Frank Rennicke, described by the Austrian Resistance Archives research institute as "the singing neo-Nazi." AFP



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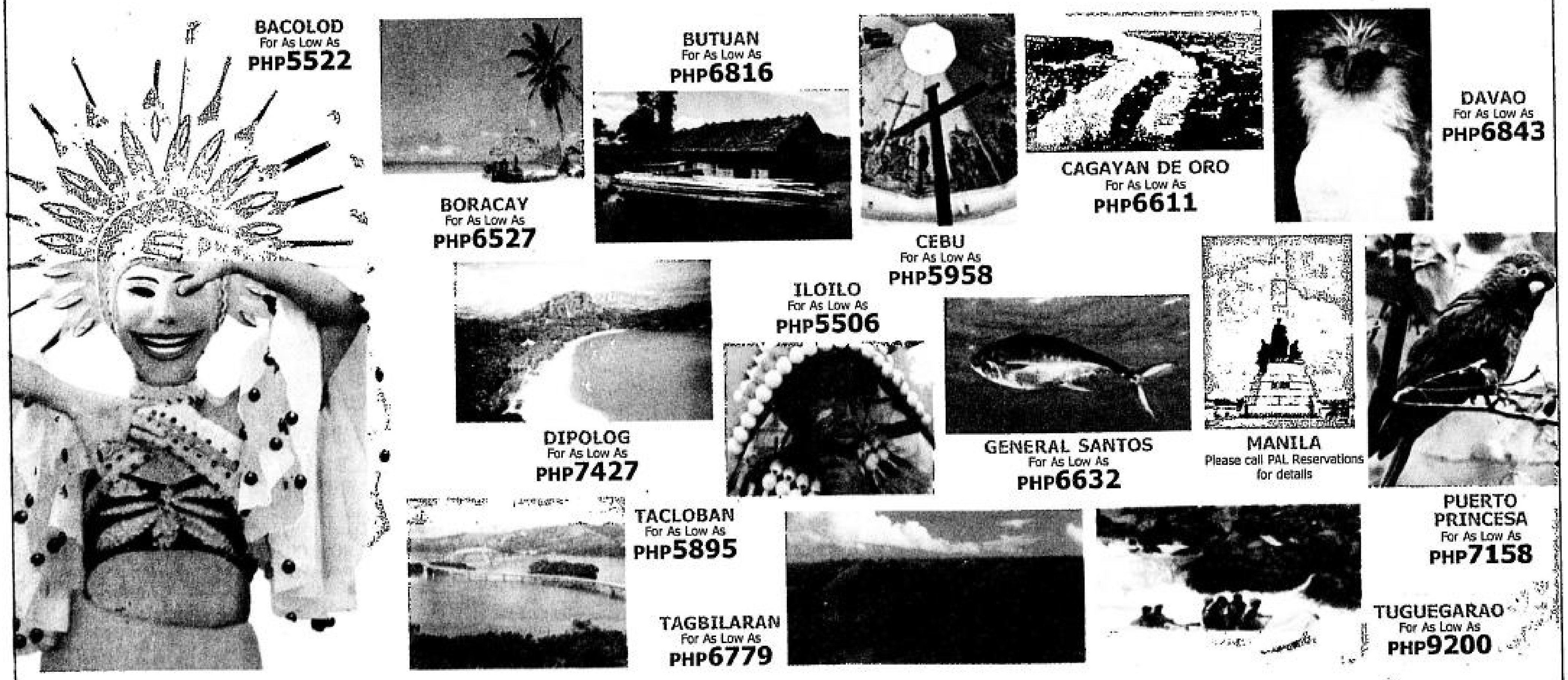
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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Fund-raising golfest today

FORMER Chief Justice Andres Narvasa will hit the ceremonial ball to start off today an 18-hole fund-raising tournament for the country's retired judges and justices at the West Course of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. In lieu of the First Gentleman, Jose Miguel Arroyo, who is on a civic tour of Palawan, Justice Narvasa, chair of the Philippine Judges Foundation Inc., will tee off at 7 a.m.

ANDY SEIGLE FACTORED

Uichico picks Pennisi for D. Seigle

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—It was more of a tactical move than anything.

That was how head coach Jong Uichico described his move yesterday in choosing Mick Pennisi over Chris Jackson and Boyet Fernandez to replace the injured Danny Seigle.

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

"We also considered the case of Andy Seigle when we chose Mick (Pennisi)," said Uichico. "Andy's back is not 100 percent and we need another center to backstop Asi (Taulava)."

Andy Seigle, in his second Asian Games stint after debuting in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, is suffering from back spasms.

His brother Danny's achilles tendon went under the knife on Monday and the wound, according to Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, will need at least six months to heal completely.

The younger Seigle, also a San Miguel Beer mainstay, suffered the injury last Sunday during the RP-Qatar tuneup match at the Araneta Coliseum.

The injury virtually set back whatever gains the team had already scored while preparing for the 14th Asian Games set from Sept. 28 to Oct. 14.

Danny Seigle has been the team's heart and soul until he absorbed the injury.

Pennisi is 6-foot-9 like Taulava, the team's No. 1 center. (See related story on Pennisi).

"Mick's ceiling will be crucial when Taulava gets into foul trouble," said Uichico, who is being assisted by his deputies Allan Caidic, Eric Altamirano and Binky Favis.

American Paul Howard is here as a coaching consultant. Howard is a friend of Ron Jacobs, who lost the coaching job to Uichico a while back due to a stroke.

Pennisi getting elevated to a regular member of the Philippine quintet left Jackson and Fernandez as the other alternates of the squad.

After today's manager's meeting, any player replacement will not be allowed anymore.

Despite their status, Jackson and Fernandez remain part and parcel of the team.

"Like the rest of the team, they are also carrying the colors of the Philippine Team," said Jun Bernardino, team manager. "The only difference is, the alternates cannot be fielded in during the actual competitions."

The other members of the team which is set to play its first game tomorrow against the United Arab Emirates are Jeffrey Cariaso, Dennis Espino, Noy Castillo, Eric Menk, Asi Taulava, Dondon Hontiveros, Rudy Hatfield, Olsen Racela and Kenneth Duremdes.

The Philippine Team will try to surpass its third-place finish in Bangkok in 1998.

Uichico ordered the team to practice twice yesterday—one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

"We need to cover everything," he said. "The loss of Danny (Seigle) has sort of changed our battle plan. We are not leaving anything to chance. Indeed, there's so much at stake here."

Who is Mick Pennisi?

By Al S. Mendoza

Basketball

BUSAN, South Korea—The first order of business for coach Jong Uichico when he woke up yesterday was to inform Mick Pennisi about it.

"What can I say? Well, I feel very honored," said Pennisi when he got the news straight from Uichico yesterday morning. "This is an initiation that I will cherish. My family is truly honored for this rare opportunity given me."

Pennisi's teammates learned about it only after their three-hour workout at the Geongdom Gym, venue of the basketball eliminations set to start tomorrow.

After the scrimmage, Uichico gathered his boys and broke the news.

A mild applause followed the announcement.

"To suit up for the team means a lot to me," said Pennisi. "I hope that when I start playing for the country, I will not disappoint our countrymen."

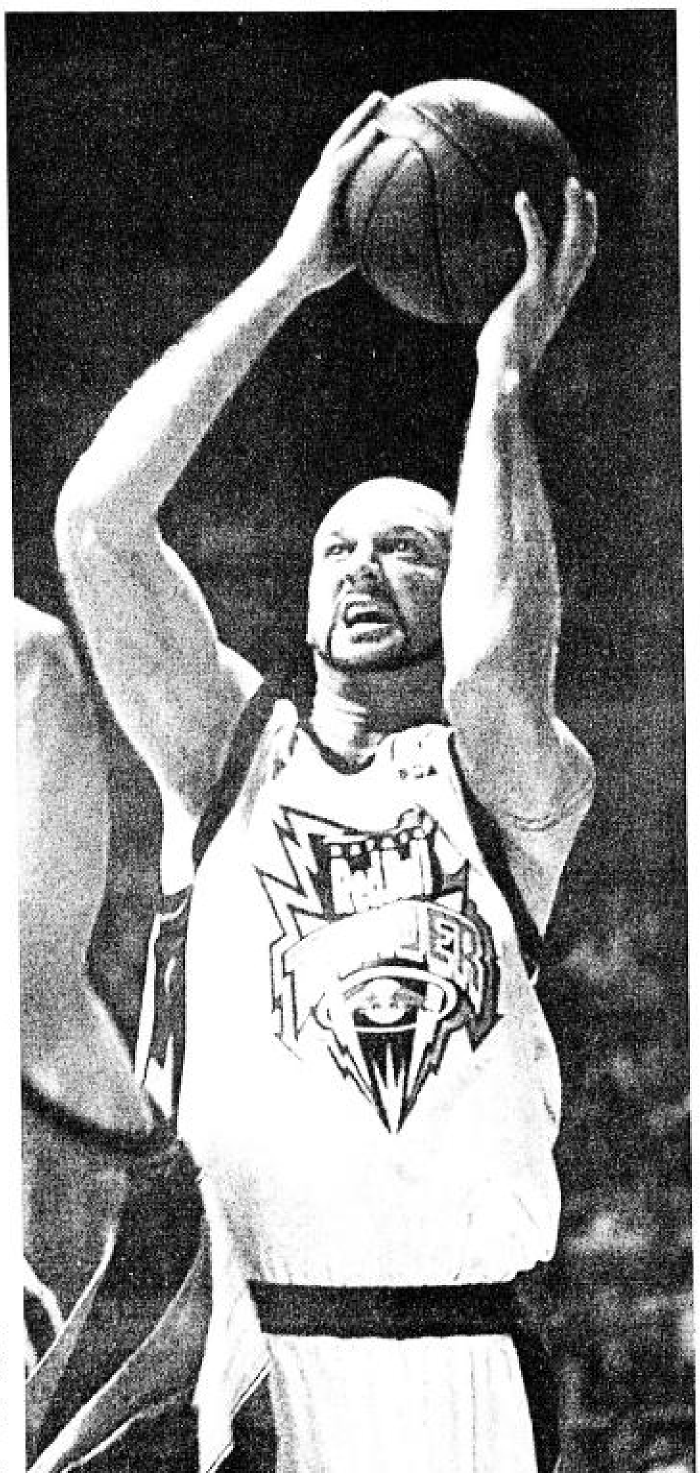
Pennisi, a lumbering 6-foot-9 with a mean defense at the paint, is a mainstay of Batang Red Bull, the recently crowned PBA Commissioner's Cup champion.

Someone asked Pennisi how he'd try to fill up Danny Seigle's shoes.

"It is hard to fill up Danny's shoes," he said. "Nobody can ever fill up his shoes. When I'm called to play, I'll shoot the numbers as best I could."

The 27-year-old Pennisi, born in Queensland, Australia, to an Australian father and a Filipino mother, is married to Jennifer, a Pampanga-born resident of Binangonan, Rizal. They have two kids-Barry who is 5, and 10-month old Sasha Leigh.

"We'll be here two weeks and that's a lot of time to be spent here," said Pennisi. "By the time we're back home, my Sasha Leigh would be walking."



PENNISI: I feel very honored. FILE PHOTO

Busan blues

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Like the Bangkok Asian Games in 1998, everything seems to be in order in the 14th Asian Games here–except one. There is no Media Village again.

Why can't they imitate the Sydney Olympics in 2000, when media men covering the quadrennial Games were provided with a Media Village?

For us sportswriters, one of the hardest to cover is the Asian Games. The sea of humanity competing here is such that you need to transport your poor self to many venues in one day just to be where the so-called action is.

There are 38 events staking 420 gold medals this year; the Philippines is entered in 30 disciplines.

Mobility will be a problem. It struck me already yesterday as it took me and photographer Jess Yuson some two hours to get to the practice venue of the PR basketball team–on board a taxi.

It might continue to bug us as many of us have been scattered in hotels that are far not only from the battlefields but also from the Main Press Center.

Some playing venues are in the outskirts of the city and, again, I remember the 1998 Asiad of Bangkok.

Back in 1998, I rode a bus going to the basketball game between the Philippines and Kazakhstan. It took me almost three hours to get to the game site. Imagine me retracing my way back to the hotel after I have filed my story. Roosters were crowing when I got home; like a zombie, I was crawling on the hotel hallway groping for my room-laptop slung on my shoulder and all. I was starving that I could have eaten a whole cow.

But in Sydney in 2000, it was a bit easier.

The Media Village made life easy for us. Our being billeted there chopped off 90 percent of our work.

Back then, you have shuttle buses every 10 minutes from the Media Village leaving for either the train stations or Media Center and back.

Over here, you either take a cab or a bus to get to the Main Press Center. Oftentimes, the cab/bus gets stuck in traffic.

In Sydney, organizers provided a Sub-Press Center inside the Media Village. It has all the amenities of the Main Press Center, including chocolate bars.

Over here, there's not much variety of food at the lone cafeteria of the Main Press Center: Korean food, Japanese and Western. The cheapest is a bowl of Japanese noodles: P450.

In Sydney, breakfast was free at the Media Village: From Oriental to Western, from the spiciest to the most exotic. And the entire sporting world was in Sydney then.

Forty-four nations are here, including East Timor, not to mention North Korea. Almost 12,000 Asians will be here for three weeks.

Coffee overflowed in Sydney's numerous Press Centers; there were biscuits to munch. All free. Over here, the Main Press Center is off-limits to coffee.

But no, kimchi is not banned.

RP team main batch arrives

BUSAN—Members of the RP delegation have started arriving here since Sunday in preparation for the biggest Asiad ever.

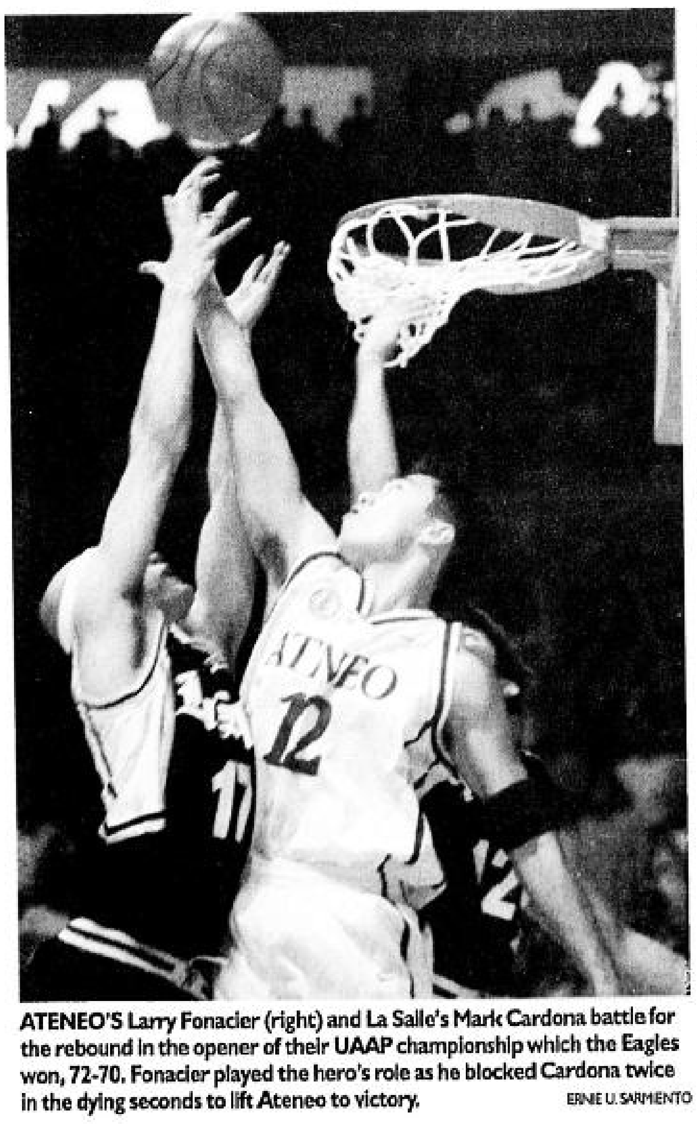
The biggest batch of RP athletes and officials numbering 115 was scheduled to arrive yesterday evening.

The group includes Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, PSC commissioner Leon Montemayor and athletes and officials from swimming, cycling, equestrian, fencing, golf, gymnastics, judo, sepak takraw, shooting, softball and weightlifting.

Meanwhile, words of encouragement and support play a vital role on the country's success in the 14th Asian Games.

For this reason, sports officials in the Asiad have installed an e-mail address that will allow Filipino sports fans to send messages of support to the members of the 327-strong RP delegation here.

The RP delegation's e-mail address is: phinoc14asiad@yahoo.com.



ATENEO'S Larry Fonacier (right) and La Salle's Mark Cardona battle for the rebound in the opener of their UAAP championship which the Eagles won, 72-70. Fonacier played the hero's role as he blocked Cardona twice in the dying seconds to lift Ateneo to victory. ERNIE U. SARMENTO

Avenging Eagles fly high . . .

From page A1

er campaign by winning Game Two of the best-of-three championship series on Sunday.

"This is a second miracle for us. Credit goes to the Lord. We lived in God's mercy," said coach Joel Banal as he moved to the threshold of steering Ateneo to its first title in 14 years on his first try. It was actually Ateneo's eighth straight win in the tournament.

Ateneo's season teetered on the brink when the Eagles faltered in the elimination, losing four straight games and missing starting playmaker LA Tenorio due to a right hand injury.

But the Eagles refused to surrender. Egged on by their dedicated supporters, they roared back in style, concluding their comeback to the finals by preventing La Salle from racing to its 14th straight win with a 76-63 victory at the end of the elimination.

Banal, however, isn't in the mood yet to paint the town red. "La Salle will come out with more intensity on Sunday. They will come out angrier and we have to match up with everything that the Archers will throw at us."

La Salle, which set the league's measure of excellence by winning the last four championships, came well-prepared to engage Ateneo in a battle of attrition.

Though badly beaten in the offensive boards, (22-9), the Archers, bannered by Mike Cortez and Cardona, sparkled with their daredevil plays.

The six-foot Cortez ably negotiated the Ateneo minefield with his excellent court vision, making pinpoint passes and slicing the middle, while the pesky Cardona earned collective gasp of admiration with his patented, high-looping shots.

Cortez's brightest moment came when he clustered four straight points, including a pull-up jumper after swiping the ball away from an unsuspecting Wesley Gonzales as the score stood at 70-71 in Ateneo's favor, 55 ticks remaining.

Tenorio then burdened Ateneo with two free throw misses and Cortez, nicknamed the Cool Cat, appeared headed to complete his heroics as he drove downcourt for the go-ahead basket.

As the fans watched in disbelief, Cortez was called for an offensive foul on Tenorio, who laid face down on the court, knowing that he just redeemed himself by giving the Eagles the possession one more time.

Rich Alvarez, who played a solid game with 13 points and eight rebounds, and Fonacier missed their shots, but Villanueva was able to fish a foul from Joseph Yeo. The 6-foot-5 Villanueva planted his feet firmly on the free throw lane, took a deep breath before launching his first shot which bounced off the ring. And in a show of his tremendous desire to finally win a UAAP championship ring, Villanueva made it 72-70, leaving the Archers with only nine seconds to change their fate.

As he crossed the midcourt, Cardona, last year's rookie of the year, didn't think twice as he launched a 10-footer which was blocked by Fonacier. Amid deafening cheers and jeers, the ball landed on Cardona's hand once again and made another try, but Fonacier foiled him anew as the Eagles spilled to the court in celebration.

ATENEO 72—Villanueva 19, Alvarez 13, Fonacier 11, Tenorio 7, Gonzales 6, Chia 5, Tadeo 4, Cruz 4, Quimpo 3.

LA SALLE 70—Cortez 19, Cardona 18, Sharma 15, Yeo 7, Wilson 5, Sta. Maria 4, Cabatu 2, Ramos 0, Tang 0, Manalo 0.

Quarters: 23-28, 39-40, 52-58, 72-70.

GAMES ON SUNDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
12 noon—La Salle vs Adamson (women's)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UPIS (Jrs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (Srs.)

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Sokor eases ban on NK flag

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—As host of the Asian Games, the city where the South's defenders regrouped during the 1950-53 Korean War has become the first South Korean place to allow display of the North Korean flag.

Amid recent reconciliation efforts, the North is sending a team to an international sports event in the South for the first time. Busan's games organizing committee is allowing the North Korean flag, ordinarily banned in the South, to fly at games' stadiums, the athletes' village and a few other places such as the main media center.

The North Korean flag and anthem also will be part of victory ceremonies if athletes from that communist nation win any of the 420 gold medals at stake.

North Korean troops overran Seoul when they invaded in 1950. The southeastern coastal city of Busan, then spelled Pusan, became South Korea's temporary capital, the site of a large refugee influx and the last-ditch defense line known as the Pusan Perimeter.

The war ended in an armistice in 1953 but no peace treaty has been signed.

The North is sending 184 athletes to compete in 18 sports, including soccer, basketball, judo, shooting, table tennis and gymnastics.

In keeping with the reconciliation efforts, athletes from the two Koreas will march together during the opening and closing ceremonies behind a "unification flag," a blue image of the Korean peninsula on a white background.

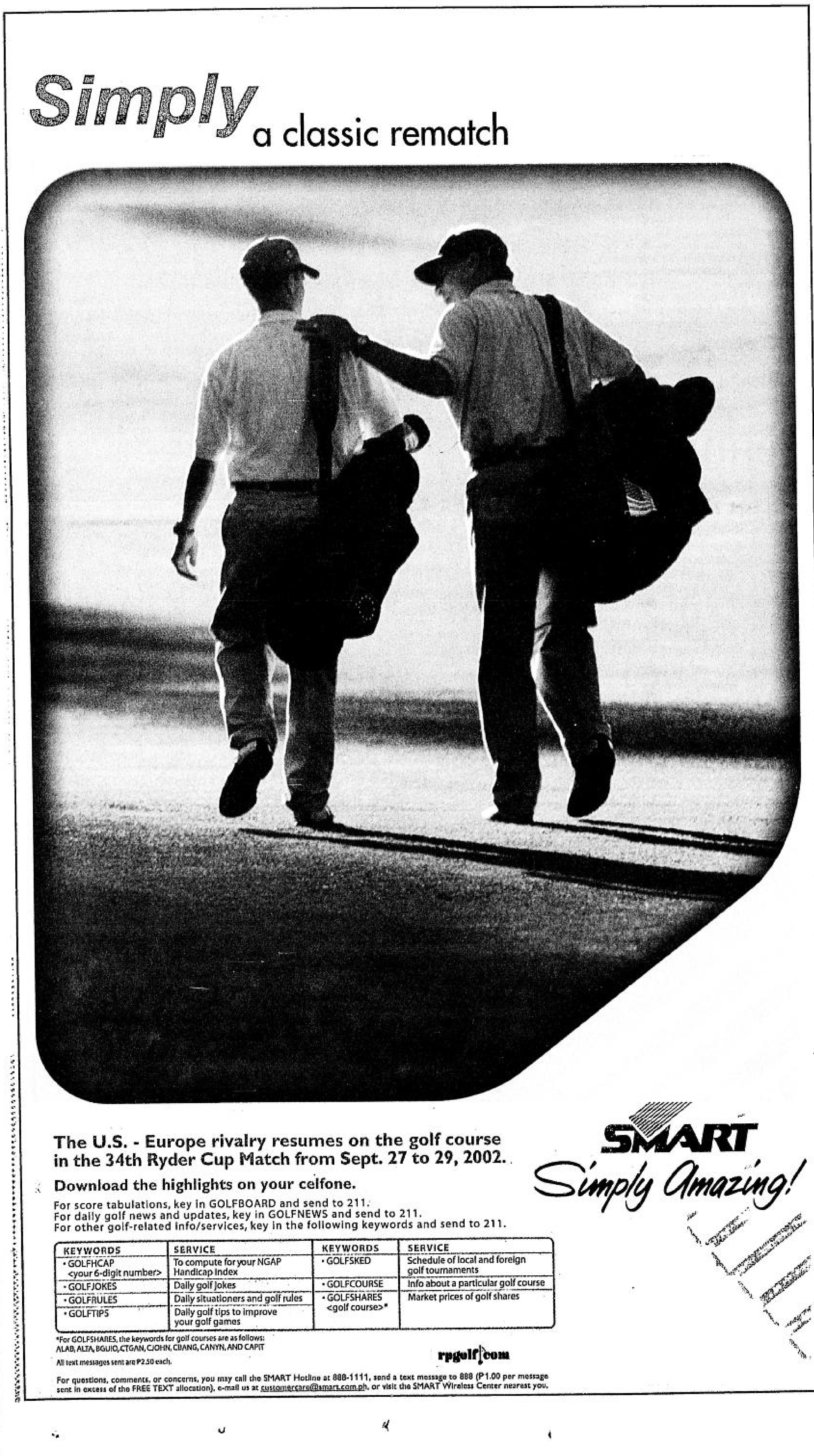
"We will make every effort to show off our nation's strength and to show our willingness to reunify our country to people both inside and outside the country," the first North Korean contingent, made up of 159 athletes and officials, said in an arrival statement Monday.

Aside from its delegation of 318 athletes and officials, the North also is sending a 300-member cheering group.

There have been occasional goodwill matches in soccer and other sports between the two Koreas in recent years, but never before has the North agreed to send athletes to a multination sports event in the South, which has been host to competitions including the 1988 Olympics.

"North Korea's participation shows the yearning of the two Koreas for peace and reconciliation," South Korean President Kim Dae-jung told a group of civic activists.

Last week, the two sides opened part of their heavily fortified border area to reconnect rail and road links that were severed just before the Korean War broke out in 1950. The Koreas were divided in 1945.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• GOLFRULES	Daily situationers and golf rules	• GOLFSHARES <golf course>*	Market prices of golf shares
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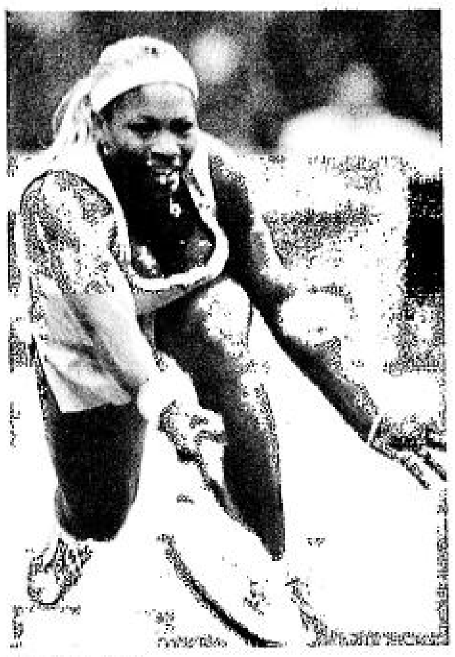

TOP SEED
Serena Williams of the US returns to Anca Barna of Germany during their second round match of the Women's Tennis Grand Prix in Leipzig, East Germany, Wednesday. The top-seeded Williams won, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, to advance to the quarterfinals. AP

Baguio netter enters q'finals

BAGUIO City's Jimmy Tangalin outplayed Miguel Narvaez, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, yesterday to reach the boys' 18-under quarterfinals in the Cargohaus Junior Tennis Cup at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Tangalin will face Arithmetico Lim of Chiang Kai Shek High, who won by default over Gino Bautista of Ateneo.

Earlier, top seed Joseph Arcilla of Letran downed Jet Esteller, 6-2, 6-2, to advance in the quarterfinals against Michael Basco while second seed Irwin de Guzman of La Salle-Greenhills blasted Cris Fitz, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against James Villanueva. Other winners were Dino Ferrari over Kyle Dandan, 6-1, 6-2, and Lawrence Magaway over Boris Chavez, 6-3, 3-2 (ret.).

In the boys' 16-under class, top seed Michael Basco outclassed Bryan Lontok, 6-1, 6-1, to reach the quarterfinals.

Also advancing were Arithmetico Lim, Boris Chavez, Kyle Dandan, Nestor Celestino Jr., Lawrence Magaway and Jandrick de Castro.

Pasay derby tonight

THE PASAY Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) launches its inaugural 4-stag derby tonight at Pasay City Cockpit, with more than 60 exciting fights slated. Exclusive sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Sagupaan Mite Free.

The derby offers a cash prize of P300,000, while entry fee is P10,000.

Official entries must be submitted today from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For other details, please contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

PCC managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano also announced the staging of 4-stag derby on Oct.4, with hosts Ferdie Lim and Arnold Mendoza (assisted by Benjie Lim).

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Join the Saints 2. Priceless 3. Mighty Mickey 4. Absurd 5. Sarangani Dancer

Race 3—1. Tawagin Mo Na 2. Full Blast

Race 4—1. Summit Force 2. Rama 3. Vhingget 4. Space Crusader 5. Bulacan King

Race 5—1. Owner's Dream 2. Sexy Royale 3. Tim Essential 4. Grand Prize

Race 6—1. Golden Quest 2. Golden Disc 3. Palachik 4. Mr. Lucas 5. Absolute Power

Race 7—1. Richie Rich 2. Sir Olizon 3. Cobra Door 4. Maple My Love 5. Storm Dancer

Race 8—1. Glory Alleluia 2. Tanging Ikaw 3. Rising Fast

Race 9—1. Love Triangle 2. Lucky Swing 3. Witch Craft 4. Dynamit Jack 5. D Barrister 6. Cristel Jay

US lady dribblers keep title

By Martin Fackler
AP Writer

NANJING, China—US basketball can hold its head high again, thanks to America's women.

The US women's team, led by Sheryl Swoopes' 18 points, won a narrow 79-74 victory over Russia on Wednesday to claim its second straight Women's World Basketball Championship.

Lisa Leslie added 17, including the game-clinching jumper in the final minutes of the fourth quarter as the Russians closed to within one.

Leslie, who won tournament MVP honors, said the victory restored US pride after the American men placed an embarrassing sixth in the World Championships in Indiana earlier this month.

"I think we have redeemed them. But we have all learned a big lesson from the men," Leslie said. "I don't think they came out with their best effort. We just can't get complacent."

The win was the 19th straight victory in championship play for the American women, who last lost a game in 1994.

The gold medal was America's seventh, the most in the championship's 49-year history. The former Soviet Union is No. 2 with six golds.

Australia won the bronze Wednesday with a 91-63 win over South Korea. Lauren Jackson led Australia with 31 points.

Cards complete 3-game sweep

ST. LOUIS—Scott Rolen and JD Drew both hit three-run homers to guide the St. Louis Cardinals to a 6-1 victory over the slumping Arizona Diamondbacks in the National League on Wednesday.

The Cardinals completed a three-game series sweep, leaving both teams with identical 94-64 records. St Louis and Arizona are likely to play in the opening round of the playoffs and the team with the best record gets home field advantage.

St Louis has won four games in a row, eight out of nine and 18 of its last 21. The Diamondbacks have lost six in a row, a season high.

Garrett Stephenson (2-5) tossed five shutout innings, allowing one hit while striking out two and walking five. *AP*

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Toronto 3, Baltimore 2; NY Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 3; Chicago White Sox 7, Boston 2; Texas 4, Anaheim 3; Detroit 7, Kansas City 6 (12 innings); Minnesota 7; Cleveland 5 (12 innings), Seattle 3, Oakland 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis 6, Arizona 1; Pittsburgh 4, NY Mets 3; Atlanta 7, Philadelphia 1; Florida 10, Montreal 2; Cincinnati 8, Chicago Cubs 2; Houston 7, Milwaukee 5; Los Angeles 3, Colorado 2; San Francisco 6, San Diego 0.

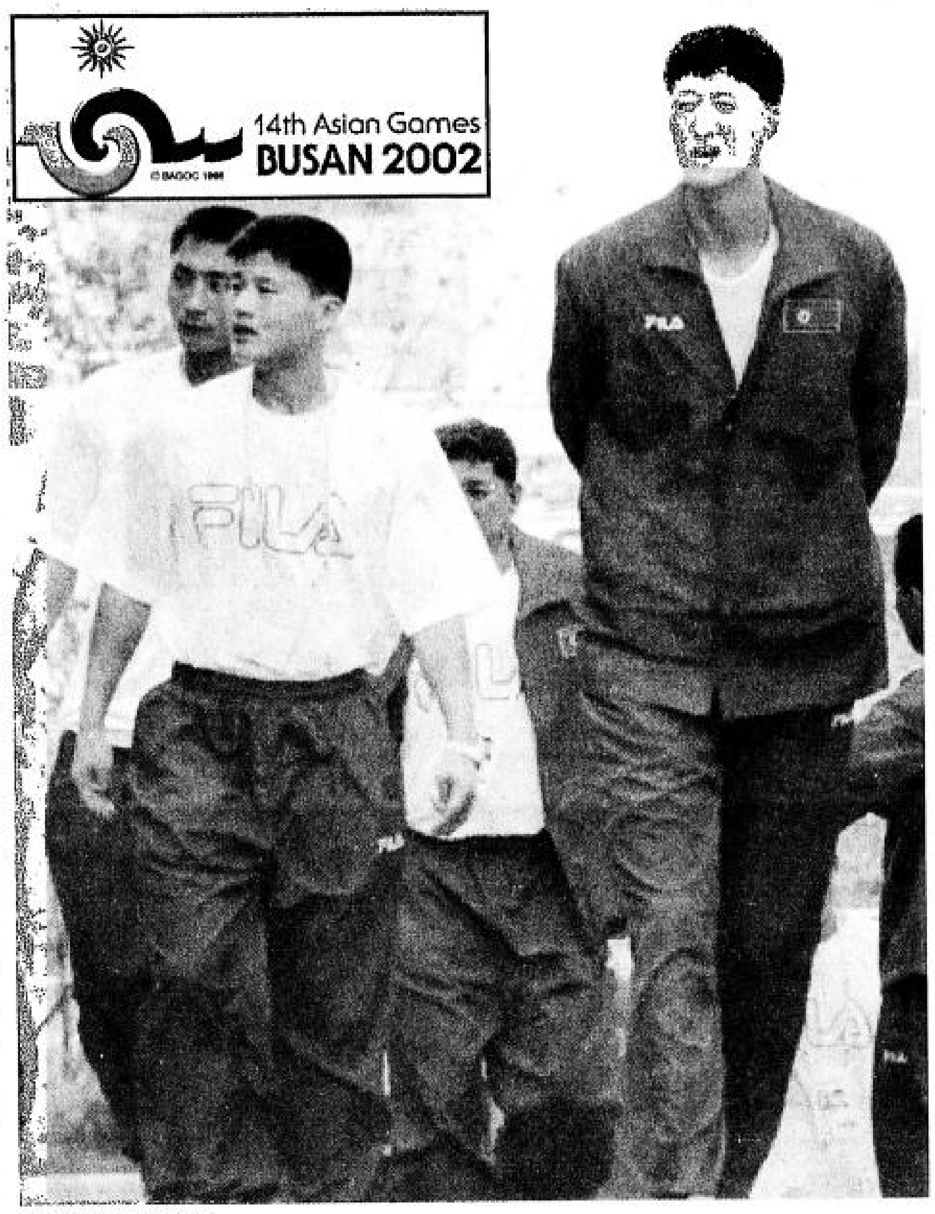
Waiting almost over for Ryder entries

THE Belfry, England—The waiting is almost over for the 24 golfers who will contest one of the ultimate challenges in team sport the Ryder Cup between Europe and the United States.

After four days of practice at the Belfry which is hosting the cup for the fourth time and the first time since 1993, captains Sam Torrance and Curtis Strange will later Thursday submit their pairings for Friday morning's opening fourballs.

Following it is the opening ceremony that will also pay tribute to those that died a year ago in the terror attacks on the United States. The event halted the tournament for a year.

The Americans, led by the top two players in the world Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, are the favorites. *AFP*



NOKOR GIANT
Towering above his teammates, North Korean basketball player Ri Myung-hun (right), who is 7-7 tall, strolls at the Athletes' Village on Wednesday. For Ri, once a candidate to reach the NBA, Asian Games organizers attached an extension to a normal bed to make it more than 20 inches longer.
REUTERS

PHILTA ROW

Ex-tennis official seeks POC help

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DISGRUNTLED former tennis official Pablo Olivarez yesterday said he will seek the help of the Philippine Olympic Commitee and the Philippine Sports Commission regarding what he perceived as "irregularities in the Philippine Tennis Association."

Olivarez, himself a former president of the Philta, accused Andrada of tampering with the association's constitution and by-laws, particularly the provisions regarding the election of officials.

But though Andrada denied all the charges, he stressed that he has utmost respect for Olivarez, whom he referred to as "my godfather in tennis."

"I don't want to fuel this issue but I'm not doing anything wrong and I respect everything he (Olivarez) says," Andrada told the INQUIRER over the phone.

But Olivarez, the former mayor of Parañaque, insisted that Andrada's administration altered the Philta constitution in such a way that he can prolong his 16-year tenure in the association.

Olivarez zeroed in on article XI, section 4 which requires all aspiring candidates for Philta president to file their certificate of candidacy on or before Sept. 30 or 90 days before the scheduled Jan. 4 election.

He also claimed that Andrada didn't inform him of the protocol that would make him the chairman of the board of governors, which is automatically given to the immediate Philta president.

Andrada succeeded Olivarez as Philta chief in 1986.

"They kept me in the dark about that procedure because they know that I will not tolerate their wrongdoings," Olivarez said. "I will personally meet with the POC and PSC officials to complain about these irregularities."

However, Olivarez maintained that he will pursue his case after the Busan Asian Games because the top sports bodies are now busy leading the country's campaign in the Asiad.

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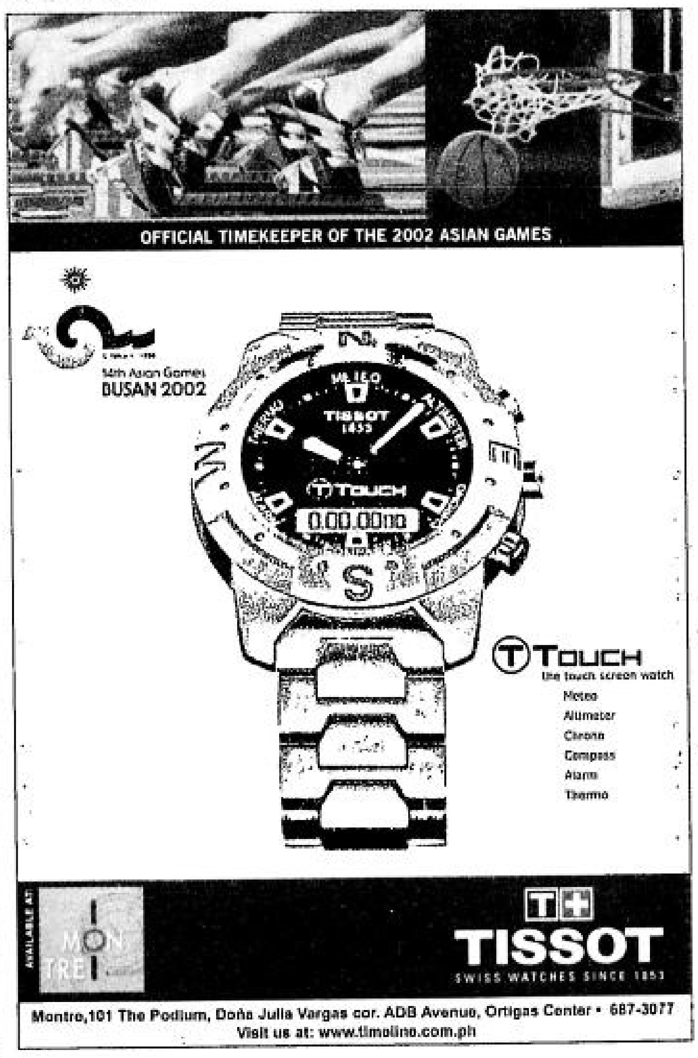
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BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Joseph Lizardo beat Michael Misa, 6-3, 6-2, to cop the men's title of the first annual Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Cup at the Rizal Sports club. Also today in 1993, Frankie Miñoza shot a one-under-par 71 to share fifth spot in the $1.05 million Gene Sarazen Open golf tournament in Shioya, Tokyo.

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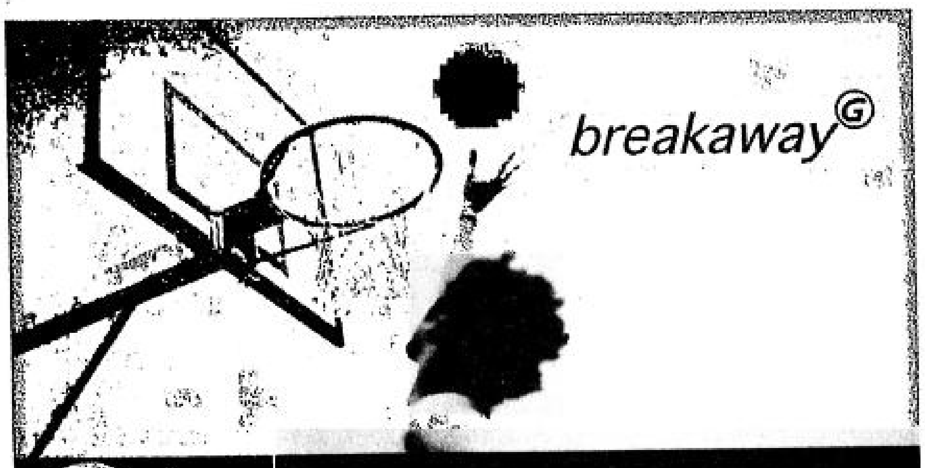

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TO PLAY OR NOT TO PLAY

Jordan's 'last-minute' announcement slated

JORDAN

WASHINGTON—Reiterating what he first announced a year ago, Michael Jordan is expected to issue a statement later this week confirming he will play a 15th NBA season.

Jordan signed a two-year contract with the Washington Wizards when he ended his second retirement. Despite missing 22 games with knee problems last season, he said he planned to fulfill the contract if he felt physically able.

Jordan has said he would make a "last-minute" announcement about his playing status. The Wizards open training camp next Tuesday in Wilmington, North Carolina, where Jordan grew up.

Coach Doug Collins has said the Wizards plan to use Jordan off the bench for the first time in his career. He would play in the backcourt behind Jerry Stackhouse, who was acquired in a trade with the Detroit Pistons, and Larry Hughes, a free agent from Golden State.

Earlier this week, Jordan told the Chicago Sun-Times: "I'll play as long as I love the game of basketball . . . I never thought I'd play again, but I still love the game." *AP*

SportsTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour at 11:30 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
LPGA State Farm Classic at 12:30 p.m. on ESPN
LPGA First Union Betsy King Classic at 5 p.m. on Star Sports
PGA Valero Texas Open at 10 p.m. on Star Sports
BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on ESPN
TRIATHLON: Ironman Triathlon at 2:30 p.m. on ESPN
ITU World Cup 2002 at 3 p.m. on Star Sports

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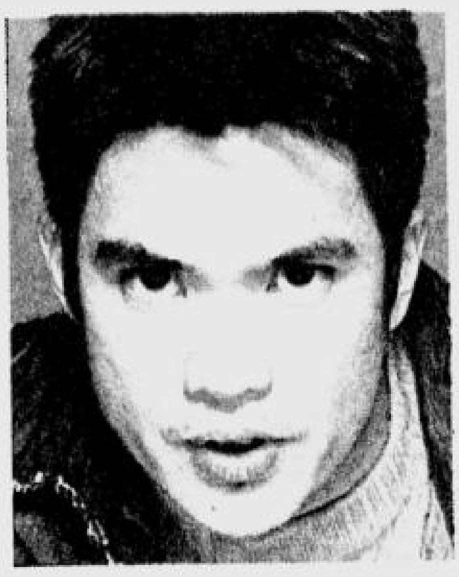

DIETHER Ocampo (left) says the shooting made him angry, not scared. Fellow actor and Bong Revilla says his sister and Diet are just friends.

WAZZZZUP?

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'May araw rin kayo'

By Leah Salterio and Marinel R. Cruz

"NATSAMBAHAN niyo lang ako. May araw rin kayo!"

Actor Diether Ocampo yesterday said he was more angry than scared after armed men opened fire at his house in Quezon City early Wednesday morning.

MAY/ A26

'Charge Fernando with slay'

By Philip C. Tubeza

FERNANDO

METRO Manila Development Chair Bayani Fernando should be held liable for the death on Tuesday of a street vendor shot by a policeman during a violent sidewalk clearing operation in Makati City, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said yesterday.

"The murderer should be held liable and charged with a criminal case, together with the main culprit, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, due to his command responsibility in this instance," said Rob Hubbard, Bayan-NCR spokesperson and convenor of the Alyansa ng mga Manininda para sa Pagtatanggol ng Kabuhayan at Karapatan.

Vendor Iladio Tuacar was shot dead on Tuesday afternoon by SPO2 Sabado M. Pujeda, a member of the Traffic Enforcement Group assigned to the MMDA, during the clearing operation at Edsa Mantrade, near Dasmariñas Village.

Pujeda shot Tuacar, a former military officer and a resident of PNR, South Bangkal, Makati, after Tuacar allegedly fired at the policeman with his 9 mm pistol.

But Hubbard said Tuesday's violence was a result of the MMDA's "fascistic" campaign to rid the streets of vendors. He said Tuacar's death happened because lawmen do not respect the vendors' rights.

Hubbard said that despite Tuacar's death, he expects the MMDA to continue with its campaign. But the militant vendors are also prepared for a fight, he added.

"The street vendors will defend and protect their lives, properties and livelihood," Hubbard said.

Police said Tuacar's shots did not hit Pujeda, who fired back with his service firearm, a .38 revolver and hit Tuacar in different parts of the body.

The MMDA rescue team brought Tuacar to the Ospital ng Makati, where he was pronounced dead an hour later.

Pujeda was brought to the Makati Police for investigation, and his service firearm was confiscated.

Tuacar's killing is the most violent incident so far in the MMDA's clearing operations. But MMDA's Fernando on Wednesday said that he would continue with his clearing operations.

He said it was natural for Pujeda to shoot back after Tuacar fired at him. He said he doesn't see anything wrong about the police officer's action.

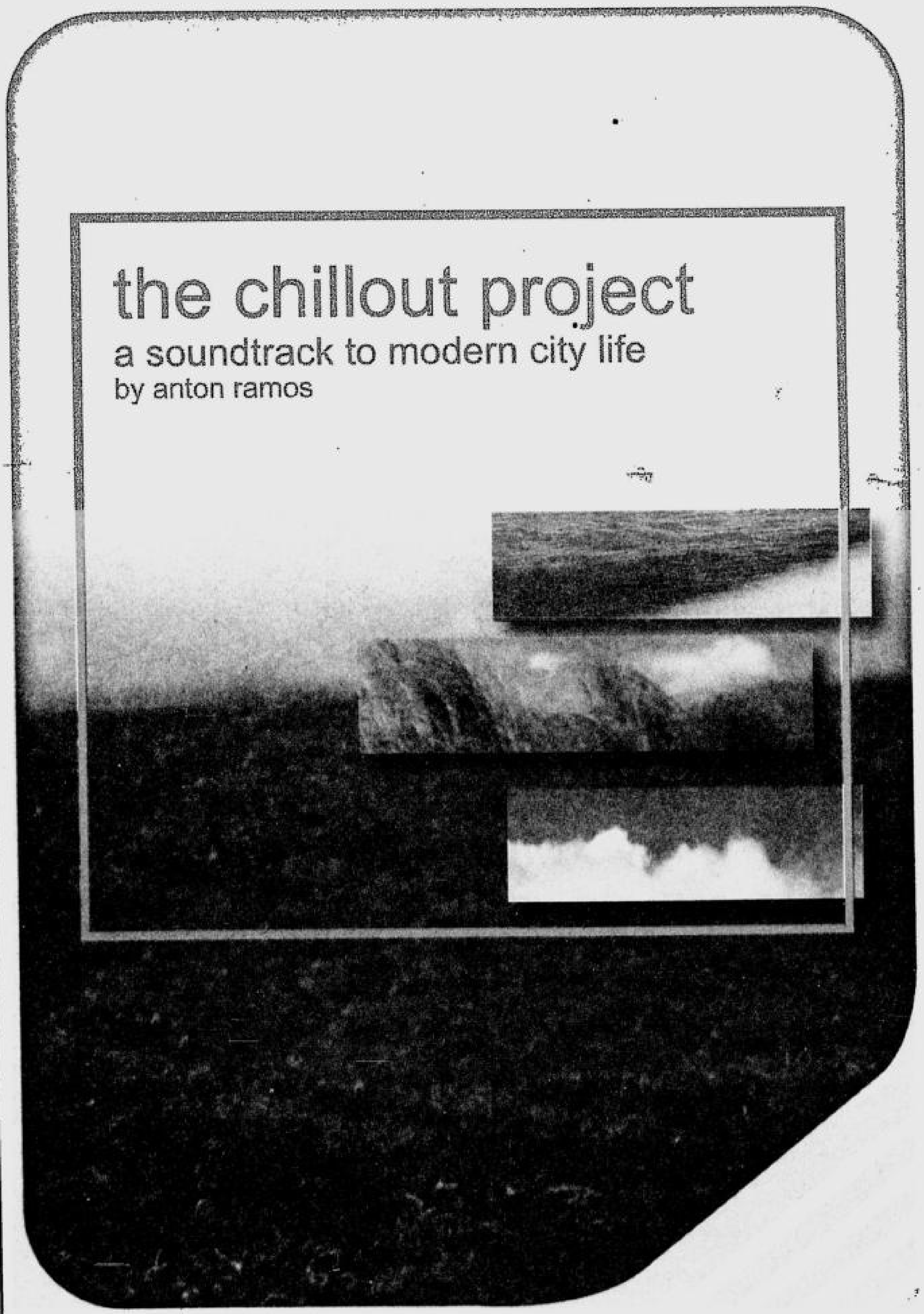
Fernando has been at loggerheads with the vendors of Metro Manila for his drive to clean the side streets and sidewalks of illegal obstructions.

He has refused to meet the vendors in a dialogue, although they have been asking him for one. He instead gave them 30 days to dismantle their stalls and leave the sidewalks and side streets.

He said a dialogue would be a waste of time and the vendors do not listen anyway.

Metro Manila mayors have supported Fernando's drive, except for Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, who criticized Fernando after he demolished sidewalk railings in the city.

Simply blissful



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Key in LOGO <keyword> and send to 209.

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Why BF, just like the RP team, must win

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WOULD you compare the Philippine national basketball team to Bayani Fernando, the unshakable head of the Metro Manila Development Authority?

Why? I asked.

Simple, the caller said, because both Fernando and the RP basketball squad are caught in a must-win situation.

You mean our national basketball team cannot settle for, say, a silver or bronze medal?

It could, the caller said, but at the rate the team is being hyped lately, mainly by its coach and manager, it has started to appear that they would not be happy with anything less than the basketball gold medal in Busan.

It did not start out that way.

What do you mean?

The RP team had had to go through trying times, suffering injuries and getting booted out of the PBA tournament. But, after its tune-up matches against Chinese-Taipei, the Melbourne Tigers and the Qatar national squad, expectations for a gold-medal finish in the Asian Games soared.

You mean the RP team has become a victim of its own success in its tune-up matches?

In a way, yes, because don't you remember that PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, who has taken over as RP team manager, had originally claimed he would be glad enough if the Nationals retained the Asiad bronze medal. Now Bernardino has been saying the RP squad is a strong contender for the gold medal.

***

But what about our friend BF, Bayani Fernando, who has remained steadfast in his fight to introduce law and order in Metro Manila? You think he has a chance of winning this one?

Knowing BF, I said, he's not the sort who would be cowed or daunted by threats and criticisms. He knows the law is on his side.

You mean he cannot afford to fail, just like our national basketball team?

More than the basketball gold in Busan, Fernando must be able to win his big fight for Metro Manila.

Why?

If he fails, or gets kicked out of his post as some lawless elements have been praying for, we would all end up the big losers.

What do you mean?

BF, contrary to what is being portrayed by his detractors, is not against the poor, he's actually anti-poverty. If he's fighting tooth and nail to restore order around us, it's so that the future generation and we could have a better shot at a better life.

What do you mean better life?

Well, you may have yourself been blinded by all these tearjerkers around, how Fernando is anti-poor. But, as the eminent Chitang Guerrero has written in her column in Malaysia, "if Fernando loses this test case, we might have to say goodbye to the rule of law--chaos impends."

***

So what else did Mrs. Nakpil say?

Let me quote a vital paragraph from her column last Wednesday: "Fernando's enemies claim he's violating the Filipino culture of compassion and compromise."

Indeed, the prevailing social practice has been to ignore or sidestep the law, to look the other way and let lawbreaking pass. Are bad habits then above the law?

Should anti-social behavior supersede written laws? Should rules and regulations suit current practices and not the other way around?

But, honestly, the caller asked, you think Fernando has a chance?

If we just close our eyes and allow chaos to prevail, then we would betray not only ourselves and our children, but the future generation as well. Fernando, in the first place, is not doing this for himself. He's not a political animal. All he wants is the general good, but it seems many around here have forgotten what law and order is all about.

Thank you, the caller said, then what about the Philippine basketball team?

Well, I'm praying hard for it to achieve ultimate triumph. If it does, the gold medal would be a result of successful cramming.

What do you mean cramming? That team has been training for many months now.

No, what I mean is how it could hopefully dump all the bad habits it had absorbed in the PBA. As Kirk Collier, a visiting basketball expert noted, that PBA selection going to Busan is great to watch, they have great individual skills but they have very poor teamwork. In short, they are very much their American idols in the NBA.

Let's all pray hard, thanks.

Bible teacher sentenced to life for rape

By Agnes E. Donato

A BIBLE teacher yesterday was sentenced to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of three counts of statutory rape and another three counts of child abuse.

Danilo Azardon was convicted of thrice having sexual intercourse with one of the students in his religion class when she was still 11 years old. He was also found guilty of sexually abusing the girl three more times after she turned 12.

In her 16-page decision, Judge Evelyn Corpus-Cabochan of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court sentenced Azardon to reclusion perpetua and ordered him to pay P120,000 in indemnity and damages for each count of statutory rape.

Judge Corpus-Cabochan also ordered Azardon to spend as much as 20 years in jail for each count of child abuse.

Court records showed Azardon had been the victim's Bible teacher from 1992 until his arrest in 1997.

According to the victim's mother, her daughter would normally spend from one up to five hours everyday at the teacher's house, where the class was held.

The mother related that her daughter had gone missing on February 25, 1997, a day after she beat the child for having gone home without her necklace.

No one in the school could tell her where her daughter was, so she decided to see if the girl was in Azardon's place. When she failed to find her there, the mother decided to report her child's disappearance to the barangay leader.

When she and the barangay chairman went back to Azardon's place, the mother overheard Azardon saying he would bring the girl back within 24 hours.

The following day, the barangay chairman informed the girl's parents that their daughter was indeed back and was at Azardon's house.

The mother said her daughter cried a lot and was unable to sleep days after she returned. Asked if something bad happened to her, the girl said she had been sexually molested by Azardon. She also confessed that Azardon had actually been sexually abusing her since August 1996.

The result of a medical examination on the girl showed that she had had sexual intercourse.

Azardon did not testify during the trial of the case. But in her testimony, Azardon's sister claimed the victim was close to her and her brother. She said that in their conversations, the girl would always tell them how dissatisfied she was about her parents' treatment of her.

Azardon's sister also said she was not surprised when the girl ran away from home on February 24, 1997. It was she and her brother who convinced the girl to come back home, she added.

The defense also presented the victim's love letters to Azardon, which she signed using her teacher's surname. In the letters, she also referred to Azardon as her "husband."

But while the victim admitted she wrote the letters, she maintained that she did not mean everything she wrote in them. She also said she referred to Azardon as such because the latter once told him to do so.

The girl added she did not want to have sexual intercourse with Azardon, and that the only thing she knew about being husband and wife is to be together.

"The purpose of the defense to establish a sweetheart theory is defeated by the positive assertion of (the victim) that she did not really mean what appears to be a lover's feeling towards the accused who had carnal knowledge of her," the judge ruled.

'May araw rin kayo'

From page A25

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday afternoon, Ocampo said: "Those people are trying to scare me, maybe to make me leave my house. But I'm not afraid of them."

He did not explain why anyone would want him to leave his house.

Ocampo was sleeping in his two-story house when gunfire shattered his second-floor glass window.

Police suspected Ocampo's friendship with the sister of controversial Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) Chair Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. might have something to do with the shooting.

Ocampo used to be the boyfriend of Revilla's younger sister, Andrea Bautista. They reportedly broke up only last month.

"That's the least of the reasons that I can think of," Ocampo said. "It's unfair to link them to this mess, I don't want their family to be involved. But I really don't know of anyone who has a grudge against me."

As of press time, Ocampo said he has yet to talk to Revilla, although he already tried to get in touch with him.

Central Police District investigators said Revilla's high-profile campaign against illegal manufacturers and dealers of pirated discs in Metro Manila could also be connected to the shooting of Ocampo's house.

But Revilla yesterday called the connection of his VRB work to the shooting "surprising" and "incredible."

"If this is the work of my so-called enemies, they could have terrorized people who are much closer to me than Diether," said Revilla. "It has been six months since I last saw Diether."

He said Ocampo "is not identified with my family because he and Andrea are just friends."

He asked police to dig deeper into the case and look at all possible angles because "it's quite unfair to link my office to this case. This might scare all my friends."

"There are no witnesses," CPD Station 10's Ronald R. Zamora said. "The security guard positioned near Ocampo's house does not want to talk."

Ocampo said he already has a suspect in the shooting and that he is doing his own investigation with the help of some friends from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

THE SUSPECTED extorting officers are confronted by Velasco.

JOAN BONDOC

3 more 'kotong' cops fall

By Alcuin Papa

THREE more policemen accused of extortion were arrested in Caloocan City on Wednesday.

Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco, head of the National Capital Region Police Office, identified the suspects as PO3 Romeo Relos of the National Police Commission (Napolcom), PO3 Proceso Sesjundo of the Headquarters Support Service in Camp Crame, and PO1 Jose Mario Boto of the Taguig Police Station.

Members of the Caloocan City Police Station 7 under Senior Insp. Ronaldo Lumactod Jr. and the Caloocan police's Station Intelligence and Investigation Division (SIID) under Supt. Dionisi Borromeo arrested the lawmen at about 7 p.m. Wednesday in a mini-carnival set up on a vacant lot on A. Mabini Street in Maypajo, Caloocan.

In a report submitted to Velasco, the investigators said the three were said to be drunk when they identified themselves as members of the Department of Interior and Local Government's Task Force Jericho and tried to extort P2,000 from carnival operator Romeo Cudia, 52.

When Cudia refused to hand over the money, the suspects threatened to shoot him and pointed their firearms at the operator's companions Rosalina Cudia and Sabina Teodosio.

The commotion drew the attention of people nearby who then called the police.

When the Caloocan policemen arrived they seized two 9-mm pistols and a .357-caliber revolver from the suspects.

Velasco said the suspects will not only be rapped for robbery, extortion, grave threats and resisting arrest, they will also face administrative charges, paving the way for their dismissal.

4 others charged with robbery

By Agnes E. Donato

FOUR Central Police District members have been charged with robbery for allegedly barging into the house of a Muslim family in Payatas, Quezon City and taking P70,000.

Akmad Omar Sr., identified the robbers as SPO3 Dante Nagera, PO2 Rommel Bautista, PO1 Estelito Mortega and PO1 Peggy Lynn Vargas, all detailed with the District Drug Enforcement Unit at the CPD headquarters in Camp Karingal.

Omar, a member of the Barangay Payatas council, filed the charges against the policemen before the Quezon City prosecutors office on Wednesday.

In his complaint, Omar said one of his sons woke him up at about 10:30 p.m. on Sept. 13 and told him that two policemen were looking for him.

Omar said the two policemen instructed him to go to the house of his other son, Akmad Jr.

Omar said that when he reached his son's house, he found SPO3 Nagera pointing a gun at Akmad Jr. He asked the lawman why his son was being arrested and demanded an arrest warrant from the police officers.

But instead of replying, the policemen allegedly asked Omar if he understood what an arrest warrant meant.

Later, Nagera allegedly told Omar that someone had tipped off the police that his son was involved in drug dealing.

Omar then saw PO2 Bautista and PO1 Mortega ransacking the cabinet in his son's room.

He said this prompted his daughter-in-law, Kakiba, to enter the room and get the P70,000 which a friend of hers had been saving to finance her application for a job abroad.

Nagera however saw Kakiba hand the money to her father-in-law, and the police officer allegedly grabbed the money from Omar.

The complainant said he tried to explain that the money did not come from anything illegal, but Nagera said the bills would be included in the marked money to be used against Omar's son.

Comelec authenticates signatures in Taguig recall poll petition

By Blanche S. Rivera and Christian V. Esguerra

EVEN IF the Commission on Election has authenticated the signatures of 82 barangay officials who filed a petition for a recall election in Taguig, the polls body said this would not readily constitute the recall election that could unseat Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga.

There are other legal requirements for a recall, said lawyer Esmeralda Ladra, assistant regional election officer of the Comelec National Capital Region.

She said that the polls body en banc would be the one to approve or reject the petition.

"This is just a kind of preliminary investigation . . . It is up to the en banc to schedule recall elections if all legal requirements have been satisfied," she said.

But Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, who initiated the recall, yesterday said that "it's just a matter of verifying the signatures" and that they are now "waiting for the schedule of the recall."

The petition for recall was signed by 84 barangay officials who represented the majority of the municipality's barangay leaders during the preparatory recall assembly (PRA) last Sept. 1.

Cayetano said the barangay officials could no longer withdraw their signatures.

But the town's election officer, Armando Vencilao, said that the signatories could still change their minds if they issue duly notarized affidavits of withdrawal. Ladra, who heads the committee doing the verification of the preparatory recall assembly petition, said that she was still waiting for two signatories who failed to appear before the Comelec.

The Comelec committee adjourned past midnight on Wednesday as the PRA proponents insisted that they wanted to finish the validation on the same day.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. had directed the Comelec-NCR to proceed with the verification process from Sept. 25 to 30 at the Comelec session hall.

This was the first time that proponents of recall polls had been made to personally appear before the Comelec for validation.

"The law has no fast and hard rules on what procedure to follow in verification," Ladra said. "The chairman wanted to see if the petition was genuine and voluntary."

The recall hearings resumed at 3 p.m. yesterday, with the lawyers from both sides submitting manifestations to the committee.

Ladras will file a report to Abalos after the entire validation process.

Citing the recall election in Caloocan involving Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, Cayetano said the Comelec considered only the official position taken by barangay officials PRA.

"If changes were to be made, they should have been made during the PRA, not after," he said. "And since the PRA has already served its purpose, changes would now have no bearing."

Cayetano and his supporters are calling for the ouster of Tinga through a recall due what they claimed were the mayor's dictatorial policies and inefficiency.

Amok at mom's wake

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN INSURANCE agent yesterday ran amuck and destroyed the coffin of his mother, who was allegedly killed by his own father in Las Piñas City last Sunday.

Police said Alner Ragrag, 25, blew his top at about [illegible].30 a.m. when his relatives continued to argue about his mother's killing inside their house at Factor Compound in Almanza Uno.

Ragrag smashed the glass of his mother's coffin and berated the people attending the wake, investigation showed.

He also gave two policemen a tongue-lashing when the officers came to pacify him.

Authorities said Ragrag was still upset over the killing of his mother allegedly by his own father.

Last Sunday, Alejardro Ragrag, 53, allegedly stabbed dead his wife Melchora over suspicions that she was having an affair with another man, police learned.

The father later slit his throat, police said. He is now confined at the Philippine General Hospital. He is facing parricide charges while his son will be charged with direct assault and scandal.

ANGRY women face WPD anti-riot squad. ERIK ARAZAS

Stop manhandling suspects, dad says

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA councilor said the Philippine National Police leadership should instruct its men to stop complainants from beating up arrested suspects.

In a proposed resolution, Councilor Julio Logarta Jr. noted the "alarming manhandling and abuse of suspects in police stations and similar places, often done under the glare of media coverage."

The 6th district councilor said suspects are subjected to physical harm or inhuman treatment by their alleged victims or the victims' relatives and friends in the presence of police investigators, and policemen have "the temerity to smirk or laugh, as seen in television footages.

"What the suspect did could be wrong, but let the courts decide on that. It's wrong to harm him before he's judged."

Logarta asked who would pay for the damage done to a suspect who may later be found to be not guilty.

"Could those who beat him up return a missing tooth, a damaged eyebrow or a broken rib?" he asked. "Can they repair the shattered dignity of a suspect humiliated before the nation, probably hated and disowned by his own relatives and friends?"

Logarta asked the PNP chief, Director Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., and Interior Secretary Jose Lina, who chairs the National Police Commission, to stop the "uncivilized practice."

Condom protest

By Philip C. Tubeza

INSTEAD of raising clenched fists, a militant group and pro-choice advocates yesterday waved condoms and lighted sky rockets wrapped in prophylactics during a picket in front of the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard in Manila to protest the US government's withholding of $34 million in family planning funds.

About 50 protesters from Women Rage and Sanlakas marched to the embassy at 11:30 a.m. yesterday, but were pushed back by anti-riot policemen.

The protesters were forced to hold their demonstration at Plaza Ferguson in front of the embassy where they lighted five condom-wrapped rockets that flew across Roxas Boulevard before exploding.

Women Rage spokesperson Rhodz Espino said that without the US funding, the supply of free condoms that the government distributes to mostly poor women in the country would last only until November.

She said the government gets its free condoms from the US Agency for International Development. But without the funding, USAID would no longer be able to distribute free prophylactics.

"When President Bush ran (and won) with a (pro-life) platform, he actually declared war against the poor and working women all over the world,"

Espinola said. "(This) forced international organizations to forego US funds intended for family planning programs."

Espinola condemned the Macapagal administration for bowing to the wishes of the Catholic Church when it comes to family planning.

She said the government budget for 2004 does not have enough funds for artificial contraceptives.

"The administration is vigorously pushing for natural family planning methods but tests have proven that these are not effective," she said. "The government should allow women to choose the method they think is best for them."

A major supporter of the Macapagal administration, the Catholic Church frowns on artificial contraception. About 80 percent of the population are Catholics.

Espinola noted that during the Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health in February 2001, Ms Macapagal had said she is open only to forms of contraception that are "acceptable" to Filipino culture. She said she would no longer provide funds for family planning after USAID withdrew its support.

"It is the fundamental right of every woman to control her own body, and this includes the choice of whether to have or not have children, how many children to bear, to use or not to use contraception, and even what contraception to use," Espinola said.

"The state, church and society in general should not put pressure on the woman to choose either way," she added. "The woman has the right to make the choice on her own or in consultation with whoever she chooses."

CONDOMS as war symbols are used in the women's rally. ERIK ARAZAS

Quezon City traffic islands, lights to be removed

TO ENSURE a smoother vehicular traffic, the Metro Manila Development Authority will remove the traffic islands and traffic lights along the traffic-prone Elliptical Road in Quezon City.

The project, which will cost an estimated P6 million, will begin once the MMDA and the Quezon City government have raised the money, according to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

He said the islands and the traffic lights defeat the purpose of the elliptical road.

"We will go through with this project." he said. "We will remove the islands and create a rotunda so that vehicles will be able to merge with the traffic flow smoothly."

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios had said in an interview that the elliptical road is a natural rotunda, and that islands and traffic lights should not have been there in the first place.

Fernando added that since the traffic lights along the elliptical road have been turned off, he is expecting the vehicular flow there to improve.

He said the Quezon City government is open to the idea and that the only matter that has to be discussed is where to get the budget for the project. The MMDA chair met with a representative from the Quezon City government during the meeting of the Metro Manila Council on Wednesday. *Leila B. Salaverria*

STOP THE PERDITION OF THE RICE INDUSTRY!

PART 1

We, employees, farmers, grains retailers and businessmen, various sectors and stakeholders of the grains and agriculture industries, express grave concerns over the heightened maneuvers of vested interests in taking control over the National Food Authority (NFA), in a bid that could only lead to the weakening of our national food security. The now characteristic rudeness and crassness of the Arroyo administration in treating its own officials, as in the case of NFA Administrator Anthony Abad up to the point that he offered to resign, is but a subterfuge to the more sinister design of putting our food security in jeopardy at the hands of speculators, predatory importers, profiteers and even smugglers.

ANGELITO SARMIENTO
WALA KANG KARAPATAN

Administrator Abad, in our view, has been at best very careful and deliberate at rushing the full privatization and liberalization of rice trade, realizing perhaps the adverse effects of these not only on the organization he heads, but more importantly, on the stability of the supply and prices of our staple food. Yet these are very core of the ideology being pushed by a gang of globalization clerics now lording over the country's economic policy, even if their prescriptions resulted in deaths of local industries and, in particular, the perdition of the rice and other agriculture industries. And these globalization clerics would not tolerate Abad's insolence of delaying their schemes.

People like Angelito M. Sarmiento, who is shameless in his desire to become NFA administrator, and Congressman Ben Cruz, who dreams of his so-called farmers organization controlling the rice importation business, are but characters of a marionette scripted and directed by the likes of Bruce Tolentino, Ramon Clarete, Cielito Habito and his USAID-funded Agile group. For all the perorations of Sarmiento and Cruz, the objective is simply to dismember the NFA and allocate the expropriated business from the state rice agency to the faceless "private sector," whose identify is kept private from the rest of us.

Ranting about the supposed inefficiency of and the alleged corruption within the agency, as if they are lily white themselves, these people offer no real alternative but to liquidate the NFA and liberalize rice imports for security stocks. Sarmiento is in fact vigorously pushing for "open importations" of rice, meaning that just about anybody who has money and who thinks can make money should be allowed to import rice. Never mind if these people are only after profit, and would not care less about supply and price stability. Nor would they give a hoot if they hurt and displace what remains of our farmers.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who ironically just recently declared she is "not wedded to unbridled trade liberalization and globalization," should set aside her histrionics and settle down to seriously contemplate the implications of her recent actions particularly in matters affecting rice, the staple food of the Filipinos. Pressuring Abad to resign so that people like Sarmiento can take over may be taking the country over the edge. Sarmiento has made no bones about this plans on the NFA, which is simply to sell off its assets and lift all restrictions on rice imports. This may not be what is in mind of the President, if we are to refer to her position that the country should not depend so much on imports in the case of rice. Why Sarmiento is so fixated on rice imports is a source of wonder to us when, as Presidential Adviser on Agriculture Modernization he should be concentrating on making more efficient our local agriculture to reduce our dependence on imports.

May we just remind the President, if she forgot, that rice can still make or unmake a government.

We thus call on the President to:

1. **Retain Abad as administrator of the National Food Authority and allow him to institute and complete the reforms he has initiated;**
2. **Respect the integrity of the NFA charter by giving back the chairmanship of the agency to the Secretary of Agriculture;**
3. **Insulate the agency from political and vested interests; and**
4. **Stop the unbridled liberalization and unfettered privatization of rice trade.**

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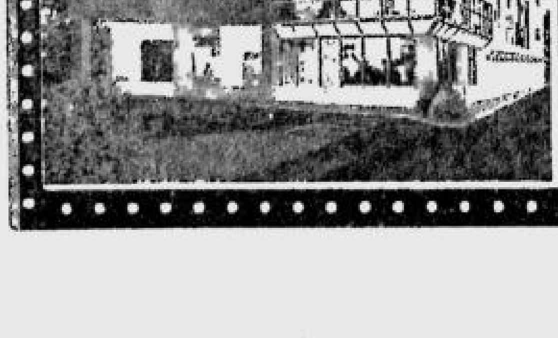

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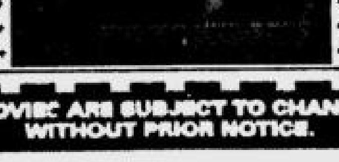

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Kuh, Basil together in LA

By Ruben V. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—"She's really, really very good. *Pero hindi niya ako makopya talaga* (but she can't really imitate me)."

Thus said Kuh Ledesma when asked about Lani Misalucha who did an imitation of Kuh, the so-called "original diva," and other Pinoy pop divas as part of Misalucha's act in an acclaimed recent US concert tour.

"*Totoo!* (it's the truth!)," the most elegant Filipina pop singer said in response to the amused reaction of the Filipino-American reporters and editors at a recent news conference here for a concert with Basil Valdez.

"Maybe I should give her (Lani) some pointers," Kuh volunteered.

"Lani does a great Zsa Zsa Padilla," she added with a smile.

Asked to name three OPM songs which they wish they had originally interpreted, Kuh and Basil came up with interesting choices. Basil named "Kailangan Kita" by George Canseco, "Larawan" by Dodjie Simon and "Sino ang Baliw?" by Mon del Rosario.

Basil revealed that he had the first crack at one of these songs that got away. "'Kailangan Kita 'was given to me first but *hindi nagkasya sa* (it didn't make it to the) album because by that time we already had 'Ngayon at Kailanman,' 'Kung Ako'y Iiwan Mo,' 'Paraisong Parisukat' and 'Hanggang sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan'."

Odette's 'lola'

Kuh mentioned "You are My Song" by Martin Nievera and Louie Ocampo, "Tell Me" by Ocampo and Allan Ayque and "Don't Know What to Say (Don't Know What to Do)" by Odette Quesada and Gerry Paraiso.

"Till I Met You" would have been one of the songs that Kuh cited in her response had that song's composer, Odette Quesada and her grandma not been persistent. The song won for Odette the grand prize in the Metro Pop in the '80s and became one of Kuh's signature standards.

"Odette had to force me to do 'Till I Met You,' " Kuh confessed. "I refused to do contests. *Talagang nini-nerbiyos ako 'pag contest. Pero dala ni* Odette *ang lola niya sa bahay* (I get nervous in a contest. But Odette brought along her grandma)."

Describing the *lola* as Odette's "*bala*" or charm to convince her, Kuh finally agreed.

Odette, her husband—fellow composer Bodgie Dasig—and son, who are now based in LA, attended the press con. Odette told us that her beloved "bala" passed away a couple of years ago.

Music and food

Basil p'eaded with Bodjie and Odette, wh- were among the producers (along with Jackie Regala and Christine Salvador-Robles) of his and Kuh's LA show, to keep composing and to send their material to Manila.

Basil, who seems to have mellowed (we like his lighter aura), volunteered to sing. As he sang "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," we were struck by the thought that Basil was already deeply spiritual in the late '70s, way before spirituality became vogue.

Teasing him with "*Kasalanan mo ito*, Basil (This is your fault, Basil)," Kuh also obliged with "Some Good Things Never Last" from her "Duet with Me" CD.

The press conference was held at Bistro Kalesa, a Pinoy restaurant. Visiting performers from Manila have to make the rounds of Filipino restaurants and supermarkets to promote their concerts. Pilita Corrales joked about this promo practice once in a concert, remarking that she had just arrived from Manila and yet here she was in LA, being served *pancit palabok* instead of steak or other American staples.

Who's first

Four days later, Kuh and Basil starred in their "The Power of Two" concert at downtown LA's Grand Olympic Auditorium, setting of such movies as "Rocky" and "Requiem for a Heavyweight."

It was a pretty standard affair, livened up only by the crowd's obvious glee in seeing Basil onstage again after an absence of many years from LA. Kuh performs in LA almost every year.

Kuh came onstage first, satisfying our curiosity on who would be the first act in a show like this that features two top Filipino performers. Kuh went through her standard fare.

For Kuh to top herself, it would have to be in a show like her "Ako ay Pilipino" at the prestigious Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts in 1997. She pushed her boundaries in that show, which resulted in her best performance to date in LA.

We are happy that Kuh's faith is stronger these days. Being a born-again Christian is part of who she is today so we expected to see this new facet in her life reflected in her performances.

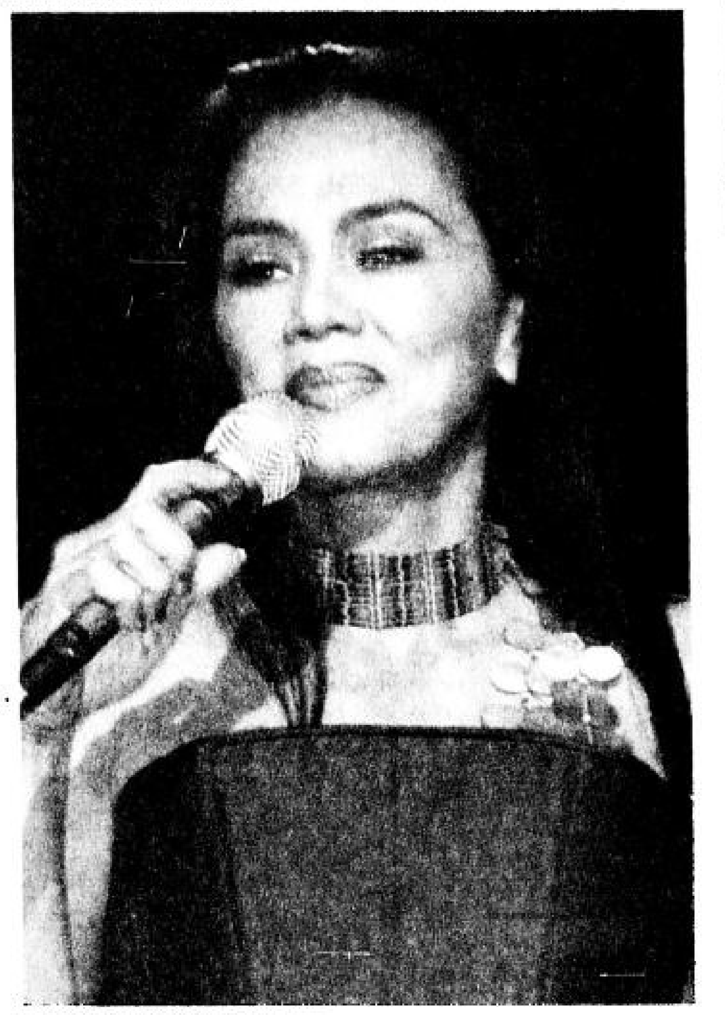
Touch of humor

If Kuh has, in her own words, "responsibility to share with you (the audience) what I know," she could have devoted one portion of her act to preaching and expressing her current renewed faith in God. Instead, she rambled on in her evangelizing in between most songs. (Kuh publicly asking for reconciliation with her husband was a bit too much.)

To her credit, she tried to add a touch of humor to her preaching.

BASIL Valdez

PHOTOS BY JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES



ORIGINAL DIVA Kuh Ledesma

Basil only had to raise an arm above his head and open his right palm to denote his faith as he sang a line mentioning "Maykapal" (God) in "Ngayon at Kailanman." It was a subtle yet beautiful and effective gesture.

Basil's distinctive baritone voice singing those George Canseco and Ryan Cayabyab standards was enough to put some much-needed excitement in the huge auditorium.

Commanding dignity

Never a flashy performer, Basil nevertheless made the audience swoon on the strength of OPM classics like "Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang" and "Nais Ko." He holds the distinction of being the original interpreter of the most number of Pilipino pop gems.

There is a quiet dignity in Basil that commands our attention. A man of a few words onstage, he lets his trademark songs speak for him. He managed, however, to state that he is celebrating his 25th year as a solo performer, joking about his start "25 pounds ago."

Kuh seemed energized when she came back after Basil's set to sing duets with him.

To hear two of the Philippines' most beautiful pop voices blend and counterpoint, backed by such stellar musicians as Jun Regalado, Roger Herrera and Rey Cristobal, was the show's high point.

Perfect sense

In this segment, Kuh's decision to pair with a male singer in a break from her "Power of Two" series (which thus far have featured her with Regine Velasquez, Jaya and Pops Fernandez) made perfect sense.

Seeing Kuh and Basil in new numbers (at least for audiences away from Manila), like the exquisite Michel Legrand medley of "Little Boy Lost," "Summer Me, Winter Me" and others, make concerts like this worth it.

In the case of "The Prayer," it did seem to be the first time ever that the well-matched pair sang this duet first interpreted by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion.

In response to the standing ovation at the show's end, Kuh and Basil did "Till I Met You" and "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," respectively, as encore numbers.

The Diva and the Balladeer also brought their show to Seattle, San Diego and Reno.

Stunning Grace

Just a few weeks ago, we heard "Nais Ko" live again, this time sang by Mon David during the "Visit Philippines 2003" road show by the Department of Tourism on its LA stop at the Universal Hilton.

Listening to Grace Nono sing the stunning "Iduyan Mo" and other ethnic-inspired songs made us wish for a solo concert in LA by this compelling Filipina performer. In this age where "world music" is all the rage, Grace's CDs should be marketed all over the globe.

Willie Nepomuceno did his usual shtick. Acting as the host, Willie should have introduced Grace, Mon, another singer, Lynn Sherman, models and the folk dance ensemble since there wasn't even a voice-over announcing these performers' names. We hope Willie and his fellow artists will be properly recognized in the roadshow's next stops.

Dick and Tony

The real stars of this show, however, were Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon and Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority Chair Antonio Leviste.

With their often risqué humor, Gordon and Leviste (he even did some magic tricks), were able to spice up their messages of encouraging overseas Filipinos to bring at least one tourist to visit the Philippines and to enjoy their retirement dollars back home.

Gordon and Leviste's earnestness and performance level in pitching the islands were up there with those of the Pinoy pop stars we witnessed these past few days in LA.

Gordon and Leviste or Dick and Tony (even their names sound good on a marquee), were funny but please, guys, don't quit your day jobs yet.

After Joyce in 'Scorpio Nights 2,' Erik Matti launches Aubrey in 'Prosti'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

JOYCE Jimenez sizzled onscreen in her launching picture, "Scorpio Nights 2," a remake of the **Peque Gallaga** classic megged by **Erik Matti**. The film catapulted Joyce to the sexy drama genre, where she has been reigning for the longest time now.

Today, Matti stakes his bet on another sexy discovery, **Aubrey Miles**, who will soon be launched in the sex-drama flick, "Prosti."

Unlike many of her peers, Aubrey has no qualms about what "bold star" connotes.

"It's my profession now and I see nothing wrong in going sexy on the big screen," Aubrey says. "But if anyone asks me about having that 'bold star' lifestyle, that's not me."

AND AUBREY IS HER NAME. Regal's best bet to bold stardom Aubrey Miles.

Aubrey is also very engaging, articulate, smart and level-headed unlike a number of screen sirens who merely capitalize on their physical assets.

She is also well traveled and has been to a lot of places in the United States (Los Angeles, New York, Las Vegas, San Diego) and Asia (Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand).

Aubrey detests it when other people tend to look down at bold actresses and mock them for showing skin onscreen.

"The bold star tag is something totally blown out of proportion," Aubrey maintains. "People tend to think of it in a rather negative way and I am aware of that. It's similar to how other people judge prostitutes. Some take it very literally, without realizing that prostituting can happen in many other ways.

"That's what I learned in doing this film. Prostitution is not just engaging in the flesh trade. It's in the way you make a living. Prostitution is selling out. I've seen a lot of people sell out, do the cheapest things imaginable for money and fame and they're not even hookers. If you compromise your principles for whatever price, that's prostitution."

Aubrey, however, was not merely tossed to bold stardom by Regal Films, where she inked a multi-picture contract. Before she even started filming "Prosti," the 20-year-old Aubrey hurdled weeks of grueling workshops with her director to prepare her for the acting challenge on the big screen.

"Prosti" marks Erik Matti's debut under the Regal banner. The film scripted by the award-winning Roy Iglesias takes a peek into the lives of sex brothel workers minus the sleaze.

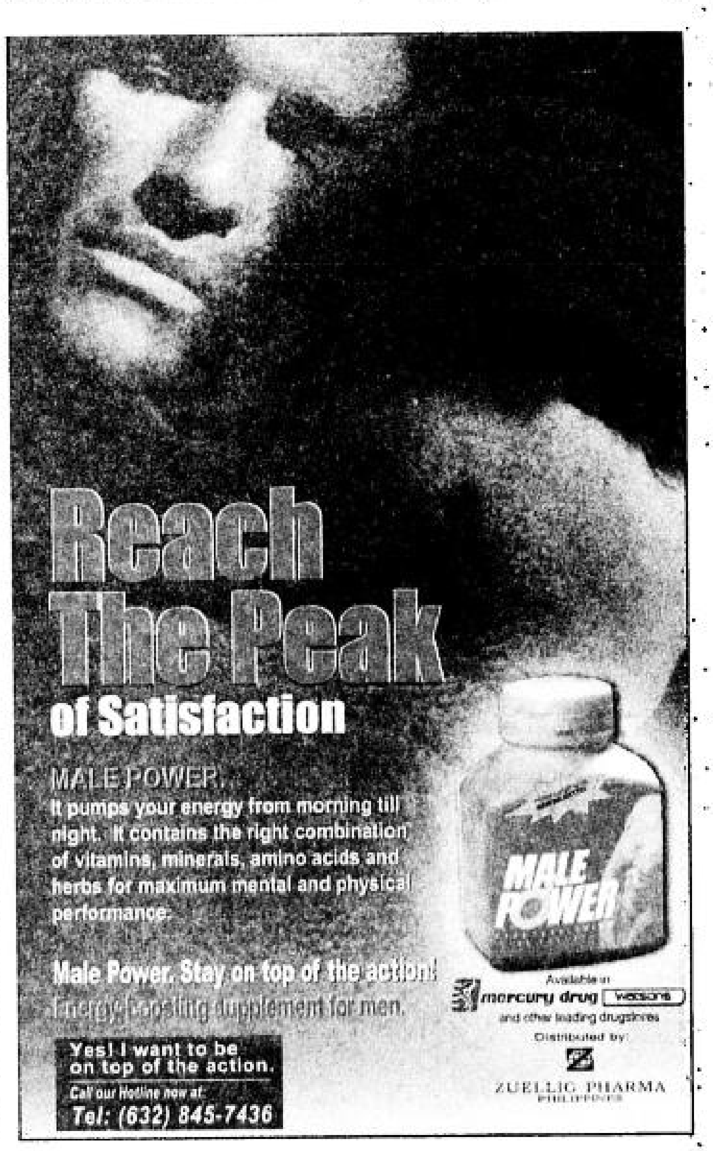
"More than the experience of being given a launching picture, the film is an eye-opener for me," Aubrey says. "It made me understand better the life of a prostitute, how hard and uncertain it is. People look down on them and they are bound to get more hurt than ordinary individuals."

Not a stroke

WHERE is **Tita Caring?**

If viewers are missing veteran actress **Caridad Sanchez** in the prime-time soap series, "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka" and the Sunday af-

AFTER/ A30



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Set the dancefloor on fire at JOEY'S DISCO NIGHT and fly away to Spain with a friend on board KLM! On the 30th of October, at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, Joey@92.3 pits the best dance hobbyists in the land against each other for a night of fancy footwork. Inspired by Joey's sensational weekend programs ("'70s Swing Out" and Only in the '80s"), the competition is bound to shake the metro to its very core. Ushering in this dancefest is a musical showdown between '70s retro band Route 70 and '80s legend Rage. Partygoers are sure to enjoy a shower of fun, food and freebies with an extra dose of thrill for the hopeful kings and queens of swing: a chance to bag spectacular trips for 2 to the US & Spain.

So make those weekend lessons count and dance your way to a getaway to remember. All you have to do is pick up the phone and give Jett Carpio a ring at 882-2863 for the skinny on the shimmy. Elimination rounds kick off on the first week of October.

JOEY'S DISCO NIGHT
JOEY @ 92.3 Rhythms

British Council supports Hair Asia event

AFTER filling the World Trade Center last March with wall-to-wall hair and make-up artists, Hair Asia will stage "Battle of the Champions," a whole-day hair and make-up contest that will gather all past winners of Hair Asia competition, on Nov. 19 at the World Trade Center.

Trophies, medals, sponsor gift packs, citations and cash prizes are in store for the winners in three categories: ladies' cut and color sponsored by Wella, gents cut and style sponsored by Splash Styling Aids, and party evening make-up.

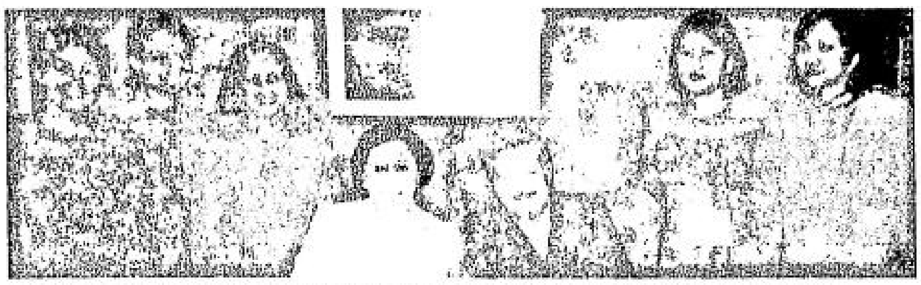
The overall champion wins a round trip ticket to London, a study grant to the renowned Hairdressing Academy and possible work attachments in the United Kingdom sponsored by the British Council in the Philippines.

Noted hairstylist Fanny Serrano is set to bring the house down with a bevy of beautiful models made up in the looks of the '60s to the '90s.

Fashion photographer Jun de Leon will exhibit a stunning photo collection of women alongside Serrano's moving mannequins.

"Salon Spectacular 2002" will feature live hair and make-up demos on big screens and satellite stages around the main competition floor.

For details, visit Hair Asia at 35 Judge Jimenez St., Kamuning, Quezon City, call 415-7988 or 926-9480 or e-mail hairasia@hotmail.com



Hair Asia Publisher Evelyn Alvaran-Cruz (seated, center) with British Council Country director Gill Westaway. Also in photo are (from left) EJ Chua (regional training support officer), Abrni Planco (arts manager), Susan Arcega (head, arts and PR), Nanette Mercado (head, project development) and Rica Veloso (PDU manager)

SANCHEZ

After . . .

From page A29

ternoon drama, "Tabing Ilog," Tita Caring recently went on leave from TV work.

No, she didn't suffer a stroke according to her daughter, Inquirer Lifestyle reporter **Cathy Guballa**. Tita Caring was stricken with Bell's Palsy and was advised by her physician, Dr. Carvajal of Lourdes Hospital, to rest and take it easy.

Cathy said her mom has been working too hard on the two TV programs lately. Tita Caring will go on leave for two to three weeks, but vows to resume taping soon for her ABS-CBN shows.

Tita Caring just came from her sister's burial in Cebu before she got Bell's Palsy. Cathy said two sisters of her mom died in less than six months.

When Tita Caring won the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) best supporting actress award for "Bagong Buwan" last May, the veteran actress was also mourning.

Tita Caring is now undergoing therapy. Cathy said the biggest lesson her mom learned is to "take it easy."

No more tickets

GARY Valenciano's limited concert series at Onstage in Greenbelt, "Gary V: Hits Onstage," culminates this weekend, with two more shows tonight and tomorrow night.

However, if you're still hoping to get tickets to the last two performances, you're doomed. An insider from Maxi-Media International, producers of the concert series, said all the tickets have been sold out.

That proves that Gary is still a crowd-drawer in the live concert scene. His sold-out shows at Onstage also attest to his marketability despite the onslaught of new artists in the local entertainment scene.

Onstage is a venue close to his heart since he was the first artist to perform in the now-popular venue when it opened two years ago. Gary did a highly successful and well-received "By Request 2" series at Onstage in 2000.

For his latest series, Gary himself has lined up an interesting repertoire that consists of songs he hasn't performed before. With musical director Mon Faustino, Gary will render Motown hits and the songs of Carly Simon and James Taylor.

Gary says he and Mon also worked on a novel arrangement for the dance hit, "Eto na Naman" that sounds very Linkin Park and he hopes the young audience will love it.

That should be something to look forward to.

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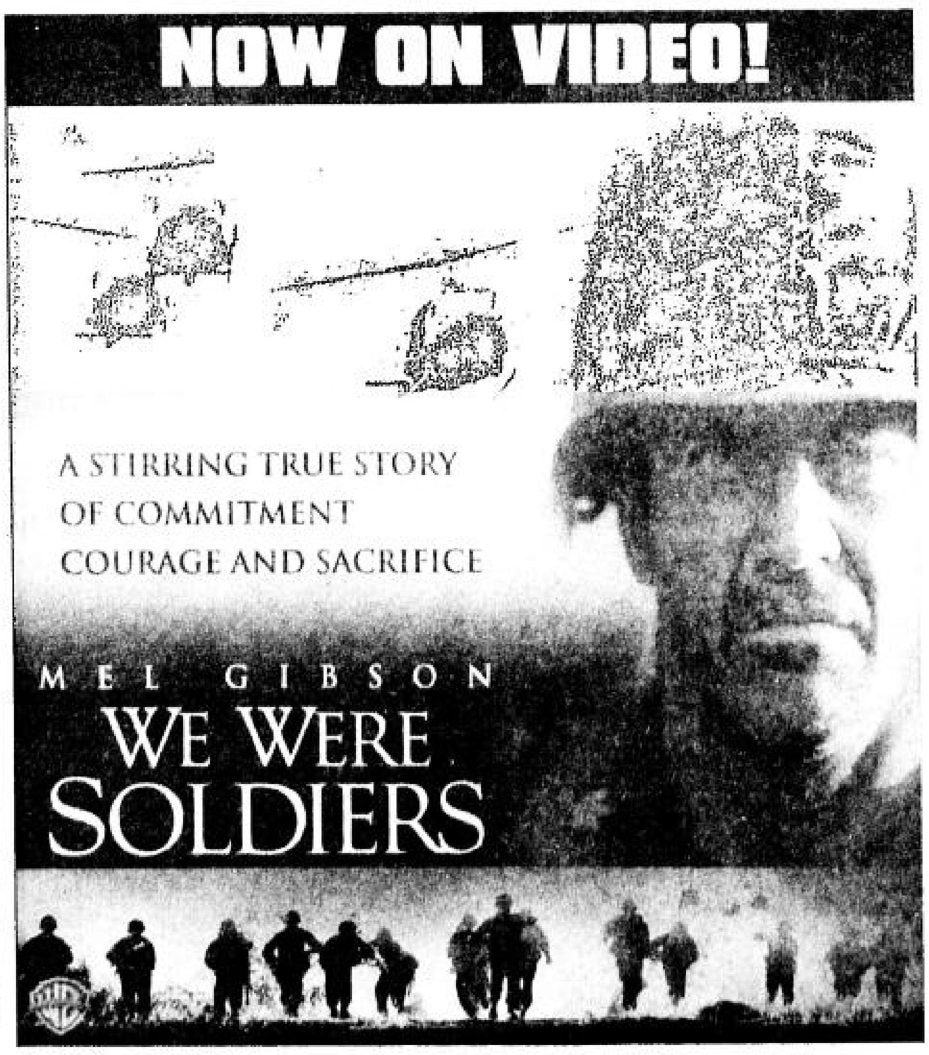
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1 ENOUGH	1 SPY KIDS 2	1 ENOUGH	ROAD TO PERDITION 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10	ENOUGH
2 K-19: THE WIDOWMAKER	2 ROAD TO PERDITION	IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	K-19:THE WIDOWMAKER 11:20, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00	K-19:THE WIDOWMAKER
3 SPY KIDS 2	K19:THE WIDOWMAKER 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00	GARY VALENCIANO HITS ONSTAGE SEPT , 27 & 28 9 PM	SIMONE 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	SPY KIDS 2
4 ROAD TO PERDITION	4 REIGN OF FIRE		4 ROAD TO PERDITION 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 ROAD TO PERDITION
	5 THE BOURNE IDENTITY		SPY KIDS 2 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	5 SPY KIDS 2
	6 ENOUGH			
	7 VAN WILDER			

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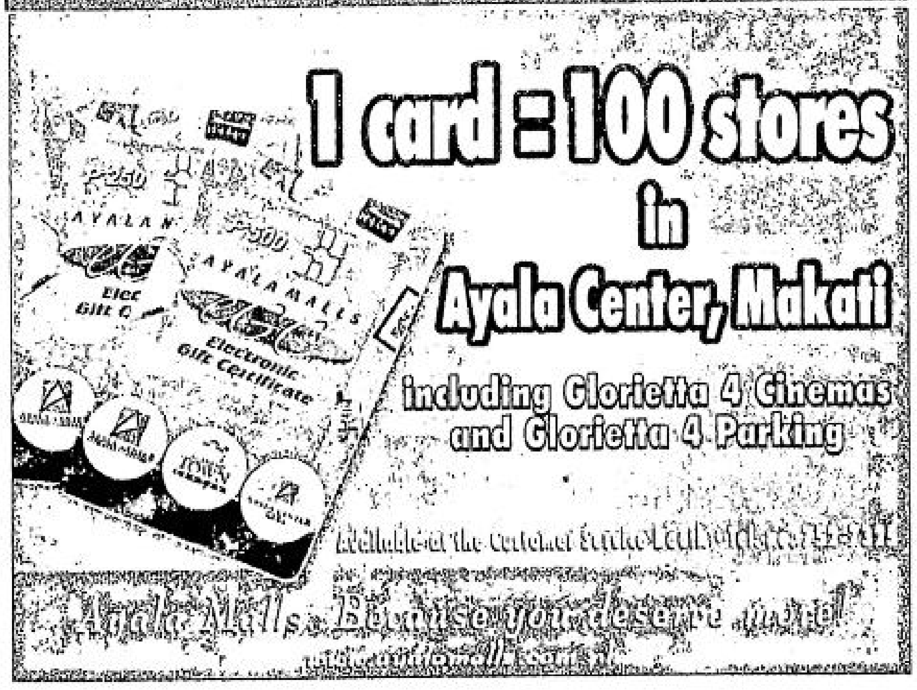
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Embarrassment of musical riches

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Sunday evening, televiewers were treated to, not one, not two, but three TV musical specials—"**Pavarotti** and Friends"; "Come Together," an evening of songs by **John Lennon,** and "The Mega Event," **Sharon Cuneta**'s 25th anniversary concert taped at the Araneta Coliseum—a veritable embarrassment of musical riches!

That was one time when viewers wished they each had three TV sets, plus three sets of eyes and ears! All three musicals had their own must-see highlights so it was a continuing struggle to decide on which other show to switch to when one telecast went into a commercial break.

In general, though, we found ourselves concentrating more on the John Lennon show, until Sharon's special was telecast later that night, whereupon we focused on it all the way up to its final fade at 1 a.m., Monday morning!

The John Lennon tribute show had an edge over Pavarotti's "songfest for a cause" because all those memorable Lennon compositions were difficult to pass up, particularly when they were given a fresh, new treatment by the likes of **Alanis Morrisette**—and Lennon's own son and musical heir.

"Pavarotti and Friends" was also so exceedingly viewable, but it's combination of Pavarotti's tenor blasts and his guest pop singers' own vocal stylings sometimes proved to be an ungainly mix.

Also, Pavarotti let loose with his piercing notes rather automatically, so the thrill of the tenor trill soon started to dissipate.

As for Sharon's anniversary special, it was made truly choice by the Megastar's personal involvement in most of its numbers. In fact, the repertoire proved to be too rigorous for Sharon, whose voice audibly tired towards the end of the show, as a result of all those high notes and big concluding flourishes.

There were also too many medleys, as though the show didn't want to miss including any of the Megastar's hits. While the fans must have appreciated this "all present and accounted for" repertoire, it robbed the concert of a clear, unifying focus.

We also missed a sense of genuine understanding of what Sharon's long career in show business has been about, and how both her high and low points as a performer and person have developed her into the icon she is today.

The most fun portion was Sharon's musical tribute to her leading men, with some of them joining her in duets from the big screen onstage at the Araneta Coliseum.

The most emotional highlight was the Megastar's deeply-felt remembrance of her father, during which she cried copious tears that threatened to drown out her singing. Also moving was her sincere appreciation of her fans' support through all of the past 25 years. At 36, Sharon is now mature enough to know when to look back, aside from looking forward.

The section with Martin Nievera and Gary Valenciano lightened the evening's emotional mood when the two guest singers spoofed each other's singing style.

Sharon looked rather plump on TV, but after a while, that didn't matter much as viewers concentrated on her musicality and charisma. Sharon may have started her showbiz career as a pampered teenager, but she's clearly learned the value of hard work, personal commitment, loyalty and gratitude.

In last Sunday's special, she was more than properly thankful, she was effusively so, but it didn't come across as "over."—After all, Sharon Cuneta has a lot to be grateful for. Here's to the next 25 years!

New films

LAWRENCE Kasdan's "Dreamcatcher" is based on a **Stephen King** novel about four friends who perform a heroic act—and are changed forever by the uncanny powers they get in return.

Years later, on a hunting trip, they are overtaken by a blizzard, a vicious storm in which something much more ominous moves. Challenged to stop an alien force, the friends must first prevent the slaughter of innocent civilians by a military vigilante, then overcome a threat to the bond between them.

In the end, they confront a terrible horror, with the fate of the world in the balance. "Dreamcatcher" topbills **Morgan Freeman, Jason Lee, Damian Lewis** and **Tom Sizemore.**

And in "Two Weeks Notice," **Sandra Bullock** plays a brilliant but slightly neurotic attorney, opposite **Hugh Grant** as her charming, irresponsible and fabulously wealthy boss.

When she decides to call it quits, they are forced to reexamine their relationship. Finding out along the way whether or not it's ever too late to say, "I love you." **Marc Lawrence** is the romantic comedy's writer-director.

Spring Roll Over Beethoven, music and memories at Merk's bistro

By Ruval Magpayo
Contributor

FOR JAZZ prince Richard James Merk, opening Merk's Bar Bistro is the fulfillment of a dream.

"It has been my dream since I started singing in bars," says Richard, who has been performing in bars and lounges since the age of nine. Richard is the son of Philippine jazz legend Annie Brazil.

In the 1980s, Richard was the front man of a popular band called The Blackbird, whose name came from a Beatles song which Richard sang with a unique twist. The band members included pop violinist John Lesaca, bassist Sonny Tolentino, guitarist Dong Zamora and Egay Abenir, percussionist Uly Avante, keyboardist Mario Elepano and drummer Jun Viray. They packed audiences at the Calesa Bar of the Hyatt Hotel along Roxas Boulevard and performed with the likes of Vernie Varga, Jacqui Magno, Tots Tolentino and even Pepe Smith.

Merk's Bar Bistro may not be like Calesa Bar, with its history of musical beginnings and journeys, but it may very well have its own distinction.

"There is an advantage when you are an entertainer and you have a bar of your own," he says.

The bar bistro is set to open tonight at the stylish Greenbelt 3. The 236 sq km area can comfortably seat 170. The interiors are a harmonious blending of wood and metal. A bar is at one end and a stage is at another.

The designer of the place is niece Gigi Valencia Eala and her group, Collaborative Environment.

Merk's will be serving Filipino dishes from the renowned Bistro Remedios. Expect favorites like crispy *tadyang, sisig, pinaputok na plapla* and others.

Richard made some little twists and new bar chows, and named them after friends and associates, such as Larry's Squid Tactics, Al Quinn's Knuckles Ang Hang, Dolphy's Palos (eel stew), Merk's Gam Bass, Vietnamese Spring Roll Over Beethoven, *Gising Gising* Little Susie, *Laing* Close to You and *Pata Negra* Fitzgerald.

Merk's will also be open for lunch.

The place is intended to offer "a little of everything that makes up good music." There will be solo or group shows, be they jazz, rhythm and blues, light pop, adult contemporary or retro.

Monday is Monday Jazz Starter. Cool Tuesday Greats is primarily aimed at the expat community with tributes to legends like Sinatra, Bennett, Streisand, Natalie Cole, Diana Ross, etc.

The midweek is party time with dance and upbeat music. It is jazz night on Wednesday, when real, serious and deep jazz is played. One can have a special jazz session with Merk and his friends.

Sleepless Friday focuses on band music, while Fabulous Saturday night is reserved for concept shows, with stand-up comedians or a diva.

A special show is slated for Oct. 14 featuring Merk and The CompanY.

Merk's has an in-house band, Q&A, that will perform on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The band does retro favorites from Bee Gees, Donna Summer and Earth, Wind and Fire, to Sampaguita to VST.

On the first Saturday after opening, there will be a Blackbird reunion with John Lesaca. the event will gather the members of the band (except for Tolentino, who has passed away).

Merk's Bar Bistro will also serve as a tribute to Richard's father, whom he found three years ago after 43 years of search. The father, James Bernard Merk, worked as a radio announcer at the US Air Base in Okinawa. He met Richard's mother Annie Brazil who was performing at the base's jazz club. But James had to go back to Cleveland and Annie to Manila.

In early 1999, Richard decided to look for his father. He and his wife Roni sent out hundred of letters to every James Merk listed in the directory. One letter reached Jim Merk in Sacramento, California, who phoned his cousin Kathleen in Cleveland. Kathleen in turn contacted Richard. Kathleen turned out to be Richard's sister on his father's side.

Richard learned that his father died of brain tumor in 1961 at the age of 30.

Two years ago, Richard and Roni traveled to Cleveland, Ohio to reunite with the Merk family.

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ENOUGH **P13** 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:20	**SIMONE** **P13** 11:50,2:10,4:30, 6:50,9:10	**SPY KIDS 2** **P13** 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00

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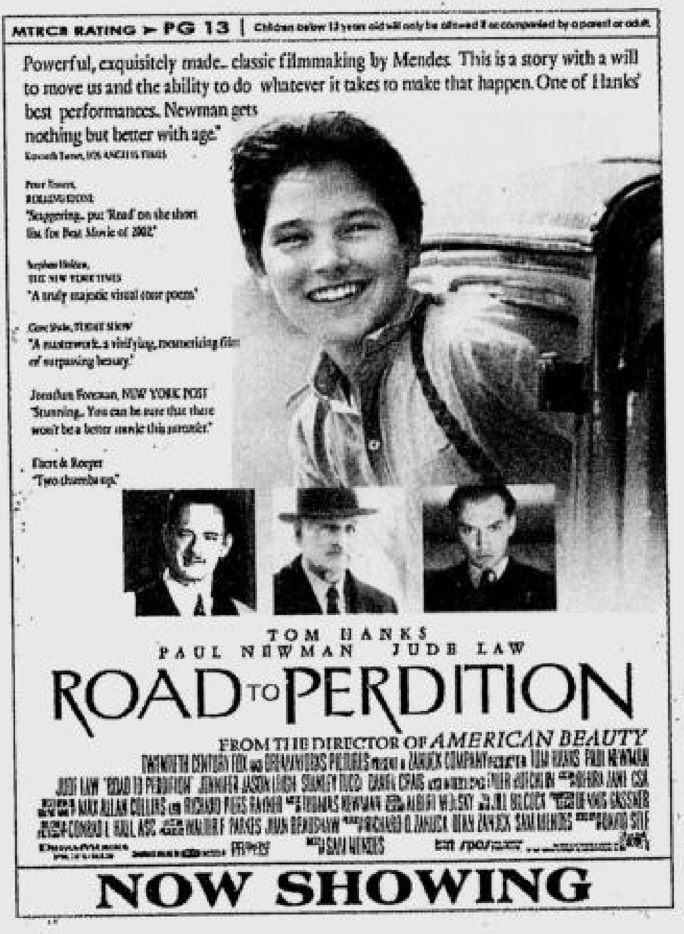
MIRAMAR	SUGAT / FERDINANDO
ODEON	K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
ODEON-2	JASON X / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	STARWARS / BIG FAT LIAR
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR-2	TUKAAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SPY KIDS - 2
B	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ENOUGH
CINEMA-2	CINE EUROPA 5
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-6	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-8	VOODOO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	K19 WIDOWMAKER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-12	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-14	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-15	REVELATION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	SIMUNI
CINEMA 2	ORANGE COUNTY (WED) SPIRIT (SAT)
CINEMA 3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA 4	BOURNE IDENTITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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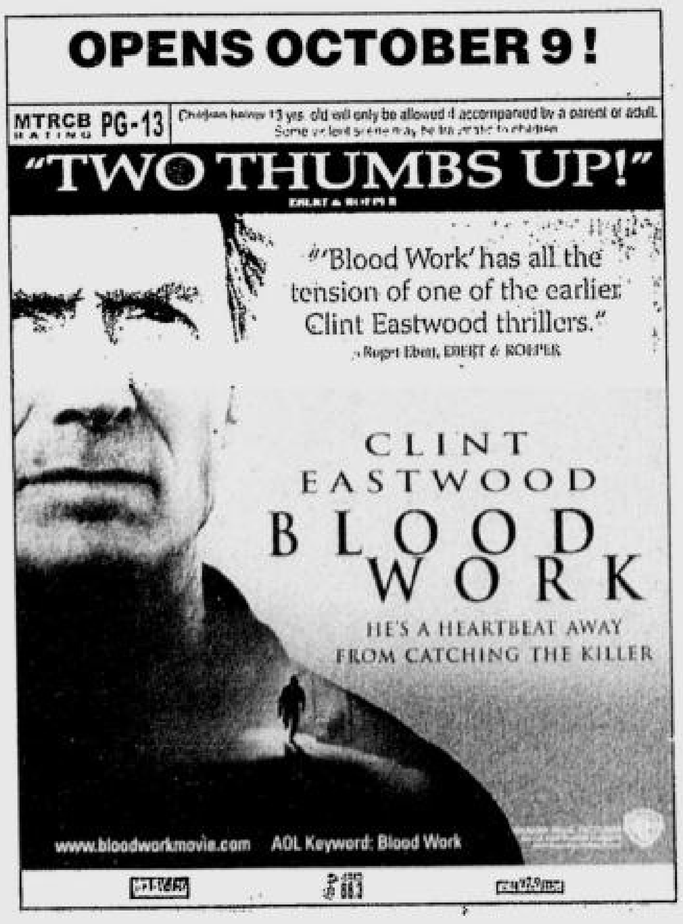

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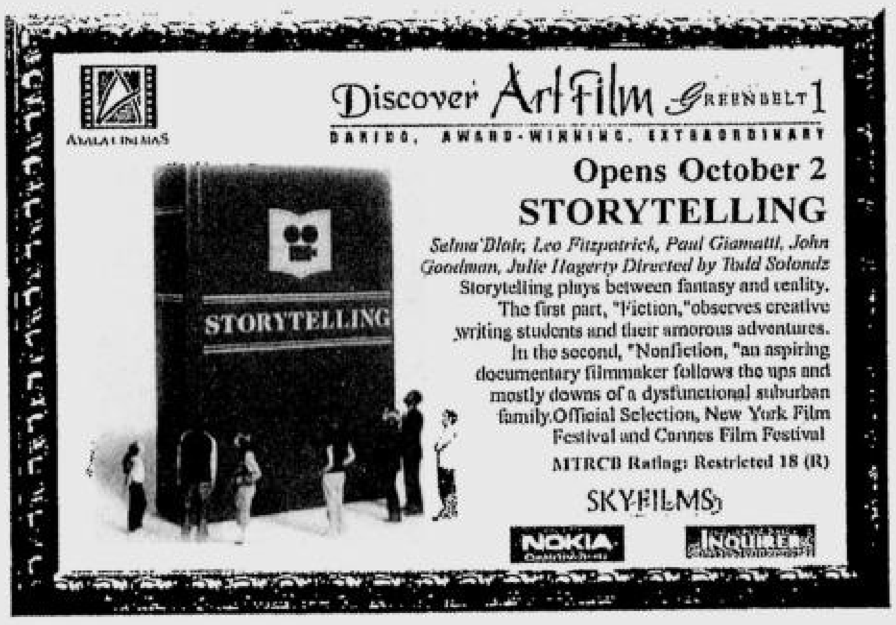

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IMF sees lower economic growth in 2003

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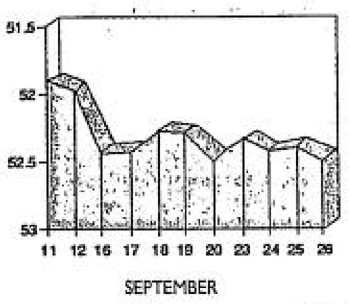

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STOCK MARKET

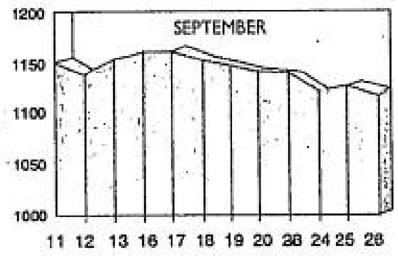
Shares end lower

SHARES ended lower in thin trade yesterday, hurt by foreign investors' selling of blue chips, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index lost 5.61 points, or 0.5 percent, at 1,120.99.

Decliners led gainers 31 to 13, while 49 issues were unchanged.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Among the most widely traded stocks was blue chip Bank of the Philippine Islands, which declined P2, or 4.4 percent, to P43.50 on 1.37 million shares worth P60.5 million.

Traders said many investors were reluctant to commit long-term funds to the local bourse on concerns over mounting tensions in the Middle East and worries that the government's ability to spur the economy may be limited by its ballooning budget deficit.

"The threat of a US-led military attack against Iraq is spawning concerns of a global economic slowdown, which could impact on domestic growth," said KGI Securities analyst Elline Salvatierra, adding that the fiscal concern continues to worry the market.

Noting uncertainties in the sustainability of external demand and the government's widening deficit, the International Monetary Fund, in its latest World Economic Outlook, cut its growth forecast for the Philippines in 2003-to 3.8 percent from an earlier projected 4.2 percent.

The statistics office on Thursday said manufacturing output in the Philippines rose 6.4 percent year-on-year in July for the fourth month in a row. But many economists warn that while the sector's expansion is sustainable in the third quarter, growth may slow late this year.

AP

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund expects the Philippine economy to grow by only 3.8 percent next year, lower than the government's forecast of 5 to 5.5 percent, due to the impact of a global economic weakness.

The IMF said inflation would also accelerate slightly to 5 percent in 2003 from 4.5 percent this year.

Compared to its forecast late last year, however, the IMF revised positively its projection for this year's growth in Philippine gross domestic product to 4 percent from 3.5 percent.

The IMF's findings are contained in a newly published World Economic Outlook.

Among the four economies tagged as Asean-4, the IMF appeared more bullish on Indonesia and Malaysia, which were seen to improve their economic performance. The IMF expects Thailand's economic growth to remain unchanged.

The IMF has forecast a GDP growth of 4.5 percent for Indonesia and 5.3 percent for Malaysia, up from 3.5 percent in 2002. GDP growth of Thailand was expected to be the same as last year's at 3.5 percent.

The IMF believed the Asian region would grow by 6 percent this year and in 2003. Much of the growth would come from the newly industrialized economies like Hong Kong and Singapore, and also from China.

Much of the outlook for Asia, the IMF noted in its report, would be dependent on external developments, including the possibility of a slower-than-expected recovery in the United States and Europe and the loss of momentum in the IT sector.

It said Asia was also vulnerable to higher oil prices if the situation in the Middle East deteriorated.

External concerns may impact negatively on Asian economies like the Philippines, which has remained dependent on the export sector, counting the US as its biggest market, and IT-products with huge import contents as its biggest shipment, it added.

As for the country's vulnerability to being lumped with other emerging economies in Latin America, the Fund said the Philippines' access to foreign funds had stayed healthy.

"While spreads in the Philippines have risen somewhat, this appears primarily due to concerns about the fiscal position and they remain significantly below their levels in late 2001," the Fund said in its report.

Meantime, the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday kept key policy rates unchanged, saying it was uncertain about the recovery of the economy.

In its regular meeting yesterday, the policy-making Board kept the BSP overnight rates at 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending.

BSP Deputy Governor Armando Suratos yesterday said in a statement that while the central bank believed inflation would remain tame for the rest of the year, monetary authorities were concerned about threats to price stability, specially the impending El Niño phenomenon in 2003.

From a 30-month low of 2.6 percent in July, inflation rose to 2.9 percent in August. Still, the August inflation rate was much lower than the full-year target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent. In 2003, the government said it would keep inflation between 4 to 5 percent.

Manufacturing output rose 6.4% in July

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S key manufacturing output expanded for the fourth straight month by 6.4 percent in July from a year ago, led by the dramatic surge in the production of electrical machinery.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the Philippine volume of production index further gained ground from the 2.1 percent (revised) growth in June, confirming the improved contribution of the manufacturing sector to the country's economic growth.

Manufacturing, which was badly hit by the US-led global recession last year, accounts for about 70 percent of the country's industrial output and about a quarter of the domestic economy.

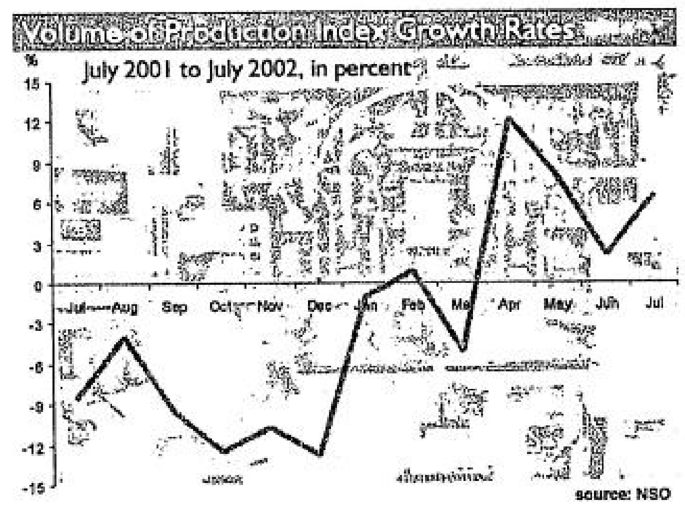
Electrical machinery posted the biggest volume growth of 72 percent in July while other double-digit gainers were: textile (19.7 percent); leather products (15.8 percent); tobacco (14 percent); fabricated metal products (13.1 percent); and, non-metallic mineral products.

"It's mostly electrical machinery so it's still the export-oriented sector fueling growth in manufacturing," ATR Kim Eng Securities economist Luz Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo said the latest figures indicated that local manufacturing was still on an uptrend, driven by demand from the overseas markets.

Despite the projected slowdown in the US economy in the coming months, Lorenzo said the country's manufacturing sector would likely sustain its rebound.

Volume of Production Index Growth Rates



July 2001 to July 2002, in percent

source: NSO

MANUFACTURING/ B6

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BUSINESSMEN and government officials recently tendered a farewell reception in honor of International Finance Corp. country manager Sergio Pimenta. Among those present during the reception are former foreign secretary and Equitable Card Network chair Roberto Romulo, former Pilipinas Shell chief Cesar Buenaventura , Planters Development Bank chair and CEO Jesus P. Tambunting, Philippine Daily Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Development Bank of the Philippines chair Vitaliano Nañagas II.

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Power rate hike seen minimal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy said increases in power rates would be minimal despite the continuing rise of oil prices.

In a statement, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. cited initial studies made by the National Power Corp. that showed that a 10-percent increase in the prices of bunker fuel would translate to a power rate hike of only one centavo per kilowatthour.

He said the impact on power rates of the fuel rate increases could be kept minimal in the light of government efforts to increase the portion of indigenous fuel in Napocor's energy mix.

"The country has been veering away from its heavy dependence on oil in its power generation mix," he said.

Quoting Napocor data, Perez said the use of fuel oil had been reduced to 12 percent as of July, from a high of 57 percent in 1995.

Perez said the country has diverse energy sources including impounded water, underground steam and natural gas. The policy is meant to shield the domestic market from the adverse effects of the oil price and supply fluctuations in the world market.

As of last year, the country's energy self-sufficiency stood at about 46 percent.

Perez added that Napocor had retired aging oil-fired power plants representing a combined generating capacity of 1,020 megawatts.

DOE data showed that an additional three oil-fired power plants in Luzon with a total capacity of 860 MW would be decommissioned in 2009 and 2010. Other plants to be retired are the 36.5-MW Panday diesel plant, 22-MW Bohol diesel powe barge, 55-MW Cebu gas turbine, 43.9-MW Cebu diesel plant,

POWER/ B4

Globe taps $72-M syndicated loan

By Abigail L. Ho

CELLULAR service provider Globe Telecom Inc. will finalize in the fourth quarter a $72-million syndicated loan that will be used to finance the expansion of its fiber-optic backbone network.

In an interview at the sidelines of Globe's investors briefing yesterday, company chief finance officer Delfin Gonzalez Jr. said the loan would be mostly dollar-denominated and would partly fund Globe's C2C submarine cable project. However, he declined to name the participants in the loan syndication.

In an earlier interview, Gonzalez said the loan was proposed by an export credit agency almost two months ago.

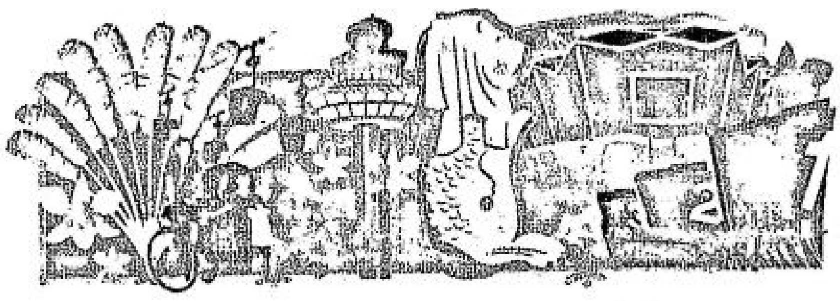
Also, Globe Telecom Inc. is spending P8 million to P33 million up the end of this year for 33 business centers that will cater to its nationwide landline business.

In a news briefing yesterday, Globe wireline centers head Tina Marie Ortiz said the Ayala-owned firm would use the amount for its Globelines Payments and Services (GPS) centers to minimize the number of disconnection due to non-payment of phone bills.

"We established the GPS centers to provide our customers with payment facilities that are closer to where they are. We really want to minimize our churn. Some subscribers cite the inaccessibility of business centers and commercial banks as a reason for not being able to pay their bills on time," she said.

Globe earmarked a total of $650 million for its capital expenditures this year. Gonzalez said the company had already spent about $220 million to $230 million. Another $250 million had been committed in the form of contracts and agreements with suppliers.

In the next two years, Globe's capex is expected to go down to only $500 million yearly as most of its core network had already been put in place.



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Estimated no. of participating companies: **900**

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3:00 - 5:00pm JG Summit Evalene PP & PE Grades by: JG Summit

SEPT 27 (FRIDAY)
2:00 - 3:30pm The Moneymaking ABC's of Quick Printing Business by: Gakken Philippines, Inc.
3:30 - 5:00pm TGRAF/ American Technologies by: TGRAF/ American Technologies

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For more details, contact Ms. Lily Atienza at telefax (632) 887- 4827 or email at lilyrose_atienza@hotmail.com

SEPT 25 (WEDNESDAY)
1:00 - 1:30pm Definition & History of Lean Manufacturing
1:30 - 2:00pm Elements of Lean Philosophy
2:00 - 2:30pm Waste Elimination
2:30 - 3:15pm Techniques of Lean Manufacturing
a) Value Stream Mapping
b) Measurable
3:15 - 3:30pm BREAK
3:30 - 6:00pm HHH Workshop
Presented by: Society of Manufacturing Engineers by: MS. MA MILDRED L. HAYAG Ford Production System (FPS) Specialist FORD MOTOR COMPANY PHILS.
Note: Includes manuals, snacks and certificate of attendance

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Cabinet OKs Tipco's $90-M power project

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CABINET has given the thumbs up to the $90-million co-generation power facility of the Formosa group (one of Taiwan's largest conglomerate) and Trust International Paper Corp. (Tipco), the country's largest paper mill and sole paper exporter.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the 50-megawatt coal-fired, co-generation power plant was taken up in a meeting this week where Cabinet members reviewed the project's operations and compliance to government environment permits.

"The government will just have to closely monitor the company to ensure that it will follow what is stipulated in its environmental compliance certificate," Roxas said.

Roxas said the review was "collegial" and while Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez was absent, his agency was represented by Undersecretary Ramon Paje.

Under the power project deal, which was signed during the 10th Taipei-Manila Joint Economic Conference (JEC) in August, Formosa has agreed to build the coal-fired and steam-powered co-generation plant at Tipco's factory in Mabalacat, Pampanga, to provide cheap power to the paper miller.

Tipco, which spends P600 million a year for electricity, expects to realize substantial savings from the project by cutting down its power rates pegged at 5 to 8 centavos per kilowatt hour, one of the highest in Asia.

This should further enhance the competitiveness of Tipco specifically in the export market. The company exports up to 70 percent of its production to Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Singapore, Japan, India, Thailand, and Nigeria.

Power rate hike seen minimal

From page B2

and Power Barges 101-104 with an aggregate capacity of 128 MW.

In related developments, consumer advocate Raul Concepcion said early this week that prices of petroleum products were expected to go up by 53 centavos per liter next month.

Industry sources said they were looking at increases of about 80 to 90 centavos to reflect global rates in local pump prices.

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An Appeal to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

September 5, 2002

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang, Manila

Dear Madame President:

We write to your august office to expose rampant irregularities and anomalies perpetrated by various officers and personnel of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Region V which have not only deprived us of our own livelihood as legitimate public works contractors, but worse, have also systematically raided the coffers of the government to the extreme prejudice of our people, particularly, the Bicolanos.

Madame President, our organizations represent all public works contractors in the province of Albay. As businessmen engaged in construction, we are supposed to suffer in silence rather than fight the very government agency which we usually deal with, the DPWH. But then, said government agency and its own livelihood and survival are already at stake. Thus, we have no choice but to do our civic duty to expose these flagrant anomalies and corruption not only for own our survival, but also for the sake of our fellow Bicolanos.

We are referring, Madame President, to different DPWH officials and personnel referred to as "inside" contractors who either have their own construction companies managed by dummies or those who use the Business Licenses of other contractors in cornering and implementing government construction projects. This is not only a clear case of conflict of interest. Rather, these are the very engineers/personnel who designed and/or made the programs of works and the corresponding estimates. These are the very officials/engineers/personnel who, using their company or the name/ Business License of another contractor, implemented the project which they themselves programmed and estimated using government equipments and manpower. These are also the very same officials/engineers/personnel who are supposedly tasked to inspect the works and approved their corresponding payments. Indeed, we are not only referring to the rigging of the bidding of infrastructure projects but also to a wholesale fraud in the implementation of government projects in our region. Sad to say, said anomalous practices are already adversely affecting your good name under which such projects are being implemented.

In view of the foregoing considerations, we humbly implore you to intervene and direct an investigation in this wholesale and rampant fraud perpetrated by DPWH officials and personnel in the implementation of government projects in the Bicol region. We are more than willing to testify against these DPWH officials who have wantonly enriched themselves using the powers and prerogatives of their respective offices at the expense of your administration. As it is, we have nothing more to lose as these unscrupulous DPWH officials and personnel already usurped whatever small business opportunities we had.

As you are probably aware, we businessmen would never file a complaint, especially with the person with whom we deal business. It is just like imposing our own death sentence as businessmen or more particularly as a government contractors.

Yet, if nobody will complain, who will? Shall we continuously allow the wanton plunder of government coffers, close our eyes and ears as if we have not seen or heard anything so long as we have our own business? As law-abiding citizens and admirers of your administration, we loath seeing the highest official of the land breaking her back to provide the best for our countrymen while minor factotums are doing nothing but enriching themselves in office at the expense of our people.

We are therefore hoping for your immediate and favorable action on our humble request in the interest of good governance and a strong republic.

Thank you and more power.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO V. NIDEA
President
Mayon Builders Association

RODOLFO M. MADRID
President
Albay Professional Contractors Association (APCA)

JOSE [illegible]
President
Albay Contractors Association

ADVT

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, September 26, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.25	19	19.25	65,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45.5	43.5	43.5	1,371,800
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	50
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	50,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	149,100
First E-Bank Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	21,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34	33	33.5	130,200
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	10
Philippine National Bank	31	31	30	30	7,800
Phil. Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	3,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	40,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.36	0.3	0.3	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1070	1100	1070	1100	1,280
Sun Life Financial Serv.	850	855	850	850	540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	1,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	590,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	487.5	487.5	482.5	482.5	19,590
Ipeople Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.5	3.85	3.5	3.85	25,000
Piltel	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	850,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	130,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	290	290	285	285	28,390
Ivantage Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	14,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.5	17,800
Manila Electric Co. B	31	32.5	30.5	32	631,300
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	2,745,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	60,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	432,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.6	3.6	3.55	3.6	316,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	21,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	4,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.75	13.75	290,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	32	31.5	32	38,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	606,300
San Miguel Corp. B	57.5	58.5	57.5	58	1,076,500
Universal Robina Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	237,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	120,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	696,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	15,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	11,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.125	90,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	1,340,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	600,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	202,800
House of Investments Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	340,000
Ionics Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	5,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	205,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,080,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	13,612,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	230,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.034	0.032	0.034	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	440,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar de la Carlota	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.95	5	4.95	5	18,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.8	0.82	0.51	0.51	230,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.53	0.53	70,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	47,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	240,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	25,500
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	30,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.5	3,167,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	690,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	5,855,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	150,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.036	0.04	0.035	0.035	2,200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	426,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	4,302,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.9	72,000
Benguet Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000

PLDT urges First Pacific to drop deal with Gokongwei

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is urging Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. to drop its $925-million deal with the Gokongwei group as the Sept. 30 exclusivity expiration looms.

PLDT vice president for media and communications Menardo Jimenez Jr. said in a statement yesterday that the uncertainties caused by First Pacific's announcement in June to sell its 24.4-percent stake in PLDT to the Gokongweis depressed PLDT's share price in a matter of months.

"PLDT's share price has suffered far too long from the decision of First Pacific to sell controlling shares of PLDT to a competitor. We see no reason why this uncertainty should be carried out past Sept. 30, and reiterate the PLDT board's call for First Pacific to work with us and abandon this flawed transaction," he said.

The Gokongweis own Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., the country's second largest landline service provider and PLDT's direct competitor.

Jimenez added that despite PLDT's strong first-half performance, share price continued to drop because a possible change in management created an aura of uncertainty about the future of the company.

For the first half of the year, PLDT doubled its net income to P2.8 billion, exceeding market expectations.

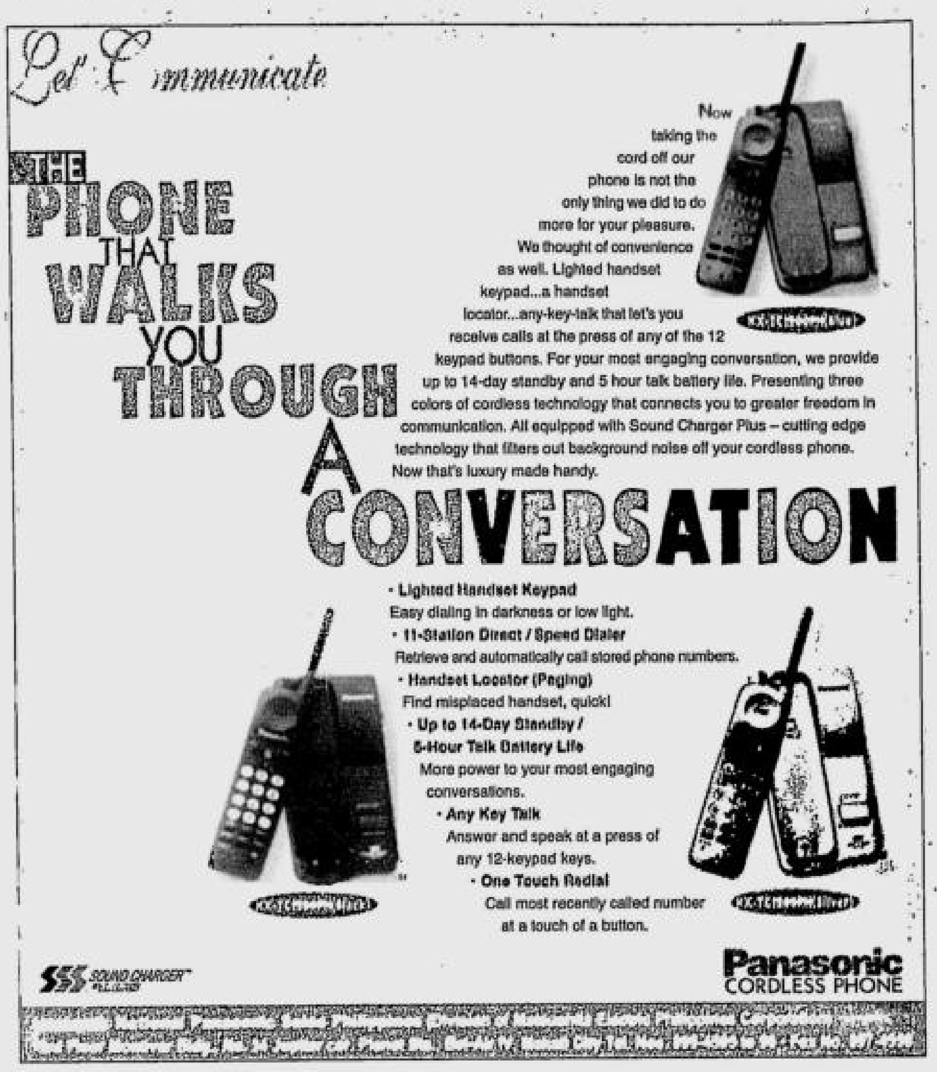
Consolidated earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization also grew by 15 percent to P22.7 billion, jacking up the company's Ebitda margins to 57 percent.

The company also announced the successful completion of its liability management program that would address more than $1.3 billion in debts falling due this year up to 2004.

But the strong financial numbers and the successful liability management initiative were not enough to offset First Pacific's announcement in June 4 of the signing of a memorandum of agreement with the Gokongwei group that would effectively transfer control of PLDT to the Gokongweis, analysts said.

Before the June 4 announcement, PLDT was trading at around P450 per share. Its share price then started plunging continuously.

PLDT/ B6



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Romulo team wins Polo Club polls

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SO-CALLED Good Governance team led by former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo won five of the six seats up for grabs in the nine-member board of the Manila Polo Club in board elections held Wednesday.

Elected as new directors and forming the good governance team were Jesus Tambunting, Roman Azanza Jr., Isabel Caro-Wilson, Jose Cuisia Jr. and Roberto Romulo. Former Trade Secretary Cesar Bautista was reelected.

The holdover members of the board are Vicente Lim, Reynaldo Concepcion and Delfin Enriquez Jr.

The good governance team beat the slate supported by the group of erstwhile Manila Polo Club president Policarpio Ascalon.

In an organizational meeting right after the winners were declared, the new board elected Tambunting as president, Cuisia as treasurer, Azanza as first vice president, Romulo as second vice president, Caro-Wilson as corporate secretary.

"Members believed it was time for the club to make the transition from the established old-boy network that has ruled the club for years into a more professional management," Romulo said in a statement.

CURRENCIES

Sept. 26, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.023437	1.000000	52.3690
Japan	Yen	0.008336	0.008145	0.4265
United Kingdom	Pound	1.595231	1.558700	81.6276
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131220	0.128215	6.7145
Switzerland	Franc	0.683750	0.668092	34.9873
Canada	Dollar	0.647785	0.632951	33.1470
Singapore	Dollar	0.573836	0.560695	29.3630
Australia	Dollar	0.557154	0.544395	28.5094
Bahrain	Dinar	2.714758	2.652590	138.9135
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272910	0.266660	13.9647
Brunei	Dollar	0.573258	0.560130	29.3334
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023571	0.023031	1.2061
UAE	Dirham	0.278653	0.272272	14.2586
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.000816	0.0427
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.977100	51.1697
Argentina	Real	0.279627	0.273224	14.3085
Brazil	Real	0.277354	0.271003	14.1922
Denmark	Kroner	0.134648	0.131565	6.8899
India	Rupee	0.021176	0.020691	1.0836
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269361	0.263193	13.7832
Mexico	New Peso	0.100092	0.097800	5.1217
New Zealand	Dollar	0.481323	0.470301	24.6292
Norway	Kroner	0.136611	0.133483	6.9904
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017346	0.016949	0.8876
South Africa	Rand	0.096806	0.094589	4.9535
Sweden	Kroner	0.109164	0.106664	5.5859
Syria	Pound	0.023154	0.022624	1.1848
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029409	0.028736	1.5049
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000700	0.000684	0.0358

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Man on a mission to crack down on tax evasion

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho stresses a point at a briefing regarding the modification in the BIR/BOC collection system held at Kalayaan Hall in Malacañang Palace. EDWIN BACASMAS

TAX cheats beware. Finance Secretary Jose Camacho is a man on a mission.

The administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo is determined to keep its budget gap below 4 percent of gross domestic product this year, Camacho told investors in New York, and a crackdown on tax evasion is part of his strategy to achieve that goal.

The Philippines racked up growth of 4.1 percent in the first half of the year, better than many of its Asian peers.

Inflation is well under control, and interest rates are the lowest in years.

But the government's budget gap, already hitting P144 billion in August and well above the 2002 target of P130 billion, is raising questions about policymakers' fiscal discipline and unnerving investors, both local and foreign.

Part of the problem, paradoxically, has been the buoyant economy, Camacho told reporters in New York before heading to Washington for International Monetary Fund meetings.

With interest rates at record lows, tax receipts on interest income has been way down. Nominal revenue projections based on inflation expectations are off because prices have risen less than forecast. And because a stronger-than-expected peso, customs levies on imports have been less than budgeted.

Despite that, Camacho said he believed the Philippines could achieve a 4-percent budget gap, or P155 billion, thanks to declining government spending in the second half of the year and because most budgeted expenditures were made in the first half. In addition, he cited aggressive cost cutting.

But more important to the long-term health of the budget had been the rise in revenues due to a crackdown on tax evasion, a deeply entrenched problem for the Philippines.

"We're implementing measures for revenue collections. And what's now happening is that we are starting to secure results," he said.

Blown out of proportion

Camacho said that to some extent the budget problems had been overblown. With a hoped-for budget deficit in the range of 3-4 percent of GDP this year, the Philippines is in better shape than many other emerging economies, such as Malaysia, Thailand and Brazil.

"The attention on this issue is out of proportion," he said. Still, he is mindful of its importance to investors.

"Everything negative in the financial markets can usually be traced back to worries about the deficit," said Camacho, who was on a trip to Singapore, London and the United States.

A recent study by US investment bank Morgan Stanley estimated that the Philippines' uncollected tax was running at around $7.9 billion a year, an amount it said added up to a staggering $205 billion from 1965—enough to retire all its government and private sector debt, both foreign and domestic, as of 2001.

Camacho estimated that tax collection represented about 10 percent of GDP, a proportion he would like to see increased to 11 percent to 11.5 percent by 2006. He also said government investigations have shown that tax evaders often do not declare from 60 to 90 percent of their taxable income.

In August, a new chief took over the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) after his predecessor quit in despair.

Camacho described Guillermo Parayno, an ex-naval officer and former customs chief, as a friendly, well-liked man who nevertheless could inspire fear among his staff if need be.

Under the new regime, "errant" BIR employees would be dismissed. The government is also making an effort to use technology and systems management to figure out taxes owed.

Hundreds of evaders already have been fingered under the new initiative in recent months, said Camacho. Those that don't pay up will face legal action, he said.

"We need to beef up the legal means," he said. "Reforming the judiciary is key." *Reuters*

PLDT urges First Pacific…

From page B5

PLDT yesterday closed at P285 per share.

"Uncertainties arising from the Gokongwei's takeover bid will likely overshadow the company's resurgent rise in earnings in the past few quarters," securities firm ATR-Kim Eng said.

Jimenez maintained that PLDT respected the exclusivity period of First Pacific's deal with the Gokongweis but he expressed concern that if the deal would not be dropped even after this period ended in Sept. 30, PLDT shares would continue to take a beating.

"We would like to strongly reiterate the (PLDT) board's unanimous position for First Pacific to abandon this fundamentally flawed transaction and work together with the board and management of PLDT in its continuing efforts to revitalize and strengthen the operations and financial results of PLDT for the benefit of all shareholders," he said.

Manufacturing output rose 6.4% …

From page B1

She noted that more Philippine exports were now being shipped to alternative markets outside of the United States, particularly in Asia which now accounts for a big chunk of Philippine exports.

On the other hand, the biggest losers in terms of volume for July were non-electrical machinery (-26 percent); wood/wood products (-24.6 percent); basic metals (-24.3 percent); paper/paper products (-17.3 percent); chemical products (-14.6 percent); and, publishing/printing (-13.4 percent).

On a monthly basis, the volume of production k0.2

was down by 4.6 percent from June, weighed down by basic metals, wood/wood products and beverage.

In terms of value, manufacturing production was still up by 5.7 percent in July from a year ago but was down by 3.3 percent compared to a month ago due to closures and weak factory performance, the NSO said.

6th Year National Urban Pest Contol Week Celebration

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

I convey my warmest greetings to the participants to the ***"Utilization Of Local But World-Class Filipino Technologies: Keys to Waste & Pest Problems,"*** conference spearheaded by the **National Committee on Urban Pest Control.**

As part of the celebration for the 6th Year of the Urban Pest Control Week, we welcome this gathering for its potential for maximizing indigenous technologies for the prevention of epidemics. This is the venue to discuss the most suitable technologies to effectively fight the health threats brought about by urban pests and unsanitary environment.

Indeed, exploring suitable solutions to health challenges should be the concern of everyone to ensure that our efforts at nation-building would not be undermined by the poor health of our people. I hope that this convention will have a positive and lasting impact on our quest to make the Philippines an international showcase for effective urban pest control and biodegradable waste recycling. May you likewise remain diligent in researching for means to further our country's development and social advancement.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

MANILA
27 September 2002

MAPECON SERVICES -- FROM THE PALACE TO BARANGAYS

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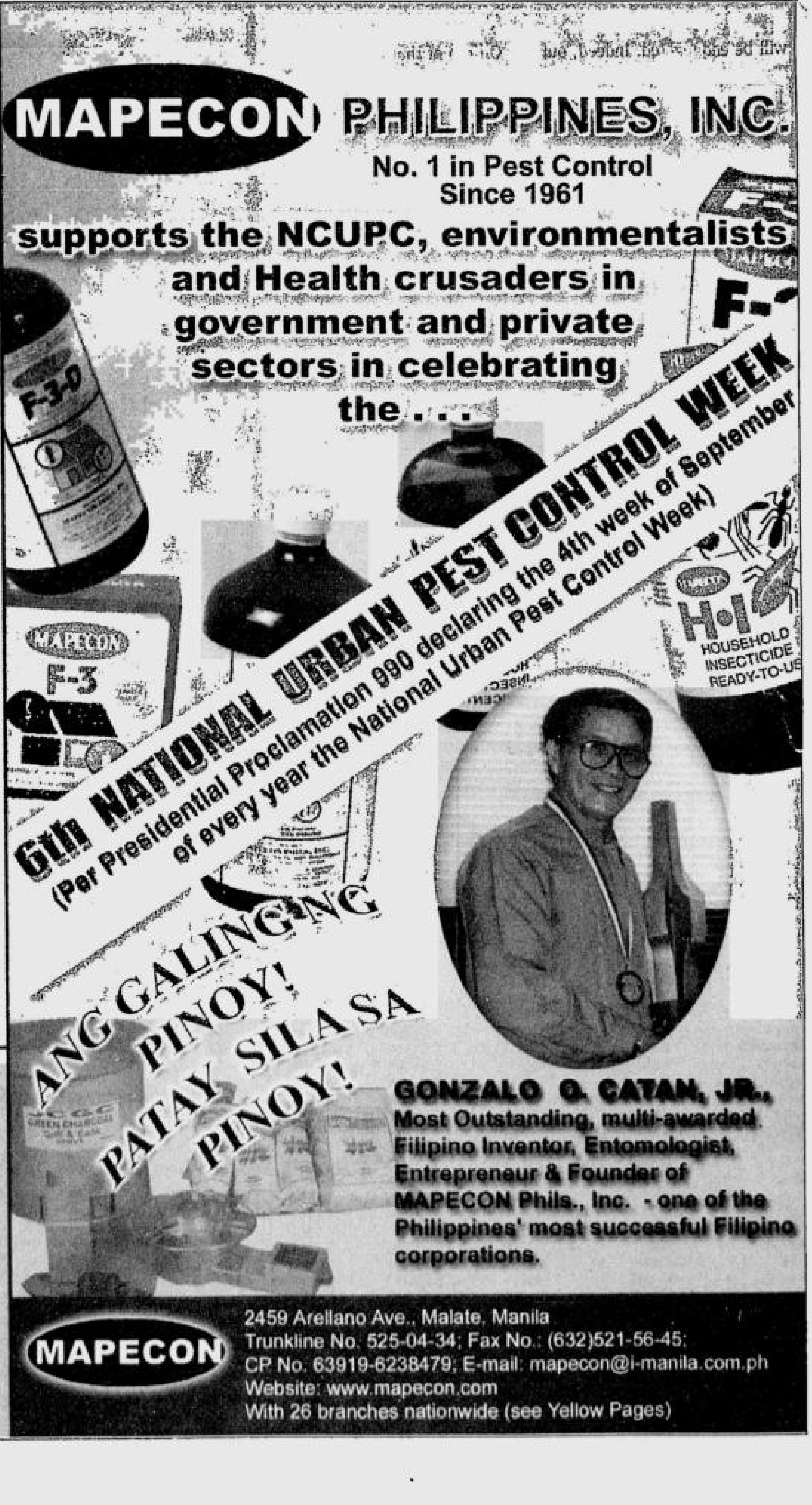

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RP balks at Thailand's demand for sugar, rice deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES has balked at Thailand's demand for a long-term agreement to sell Bangkok sugar and rice to the government in exchange for allowing the country to continue its protection of the local sugar industry.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said: "The Philippines is inclined to veer away from committing a definite volume of imports from Thailand as it would be difficult to forecast the country's annual requirement."

In exchange for dropping its opposition to the protection accorded by the government to the local sugar industry, Thailand wants the Philippines to purchase at least 100,000 metric tons of sugar a year or at least 33 percent of its total requirement from Bangkok.

On top of a guaranteed supply contract for sweetener, Thailand has demanded a contract to supply no less than 20 percent of the Philippines' annual rice imports.

The Philippines must compensate Thailand, the biggest supplier of sugar in Asean, to gain its support for Malacañang's petition to the Asean and the World Trade Organization to maintain the tariff barriers on the sugar industry.

The Philippines wants to amend the bound rate—the maximum level that tariffs on certain products could be kept under the scheduled tariff reduction—on sugar from 65 percent to 80 percent for the next 10 years to give the industry more time to improve its operations and attract fresh capital.

Tariffs on sugar are set to fall in 2003 under the Asean Free Trade Common Effective Preferential Tariff program and in 2004 under the WTO trade liberalization program.

Roxas said the Philippines had already rejected Thailand's original demand for the two countries to give a 50-percent margin of preference to their sugar trade.

"This is an old procedure and system used under the old Preferential Tariff Agreement which has been phased out," Roxas said.

In its first proposal, Thailand not only wanted concessional rate for its sugar exports to the Philippines intended for Filipino consumption but it also demanded duty-free perks for sugar imports intended for processing and re-export. Thailand also wanted to sell molasses to the Philippines at zero duty.

Too many paid holidays?

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THE TASK of building the nation is so great but the hands are few. Many are standing idly. Others are late, absent, or are on vacation. The opportunities are flowing but the workers are far in between. A lot of our employees are on paid holiday. The employers are hit by both external pressures and internal maladies. And yet, they do nothing.

While labor is complaining of low wages and rampant violations of labor standards, the employers are decrying the fact that there are too many paid holidays. While workers are griping on how to survive with minimum wages that don't equal the correct level of living wage, businessmen are raising concerns over the rapidly escalating labor costs and fast declining levels of productivity.

Social compact

When PMAP (Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) officers paid a courtesy call on Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas earlier this year, she told us that there was nothing wrong with raising wage levels as long as our productivity was competitive.

For the capitalists must pay some sort of tuition fee for social cohesion. That is the role of the state, to maintain the social compact and equilibrium. The moment there is imbalance the ship of the state is imperiled.

Competitiveness

If our country is not competitive, even our business and jobs will be endangered. Indeed, our pathway to competitiveness is not to rob the workers of their labor standards but to raise our efficiencies and volumes of outputs. In the cruel arena of the global markets, however, our products and services are easily eliminated by such highly productive economies like China and Vietnam because we only succeeded in raising our inputs, while we shrunk our outputs and lowered our standards of quality.

One sure way to be hit by the double whammy of high production and distribution costs and eroded productivity, according to business and industry leaders, is for government to impose many paid holidays, vacations, leaves and other non-productive man-days. If this is so, then paid holidays may not be a real safety net for workers but a proximate cause for disincentive to investors. And whenever capital flies away, jobs are lost. Business and labor will end up together in a loss-loss situation.

Basic rules of fair play

The fundamental principle of "no work no pay" is a corollary to the basic rule of "equal pay for equal work" and "a fair day's wage for a fair day's work." Granting paid holidays is an exception to this rule. And when the exceptions become too many, the rules become the exception.

The 10 legal holidays are considered paid even when the employees did not work on those days. When they worked, the pay is double. Added to that are two nationwide special days and 54 weekly rest days. Some firms have non-working 54 Saturdays. The usual number of vacation leaves is 30 and another 30 for sick leave every year. That means 180 days of non-productive days and paid, or only six months of work a year when employers are compelled to pay for 13 months.

Leaves and calamities

On top of that are seven days of paternity leave or 60 days of maternity leave for normal delivery and 78 days for caesarian (RA 8282, amending Article 133, Labor Code) delivery. There are seven days more of paid leaves for single parents. Add to that is an average of 10 days off per year for local fiestas, city charter days or days dedicated to local heroes and for flood, typhoons and brownouts.

Then, PD 1083 (amending Article 93, Labor Code) adds five paid Muslim holidays covering all employers and employees (even non-Muslims), operating in Muslim areas. They also cover all Muslims working nationwide in non-Muslim areas.

Supreme Court ruling

No less than the highest court sustained their compulsory entitlement to Muslim holidays, consisting of the days of the Muslim New Year, Mohammad's birthday, Mohammad's Ascension, the end of the fasting season and the 10th day of the 12th lunar month. This was on Jan. 30, 2002, in the case of San Miguel Corp. vs. C.A. (GR 146775).

There are sectors that believe that while the law on Muslim holidays may survive a constitutional attack for being a class legislation, it may trigger a barrage of sectarian pressures, coming from other religions. The 7th Day Adventists may demand 54 non-working Thursdays. We certainly cannot allow inter-denominational conflicts as another fracture in our largely segmented society.

Absenteeism, tardiness

There are endless causes to trigger absenteeism in this country. Aside from sickness, death in the family, weddings, baptismal parties, anniversaries, there are endless reunions and even the homecoming of relatives from Saudi or Los Angeles. There is a culture inspiring vacations for the flimsiest reasons. And doctors are extra liberal in issuing medical certificates.

Tardiness is blamed on the traffic and the floods. And when workers are in the factory, so many hours are wasted in the comfort rooms, canteens, smoking areas, telephones, in "texting" and newspaper reading. Some are even vending food, jewelry and cell cards during office hours. There is a collapse of employee discipline and we lack a truly committed work ethic. Is this what Rizal called the indolence of the Filipinos?

Management failures

If all these happen on top of the many legally mandated holidays and leaves, then management is primarily to blame. Discipline is a managerial prerogative, a control measure and an HR intervention in support of operations.

If we cannot put our house in order, we will even lose to Myanmar, in this very competitive times and harsh business environment. And we don't deserve that. The Filipinos are too proud to accept any failure even today, when success seems unreachable. And so, let's do something to win in the global arena.

PSE to bid for 100% stake in clearing house

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange board agreed on Wednesday to bid for the 100-percent control of the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines (SCCP) through a share-swap arrangement that would involve part of its stake in Philippine Cental Depository Inc.

The PSE board also approved a proposal from the management, led by bourse president Ernest Leung, to purchase a new computer system worth about P40 million to upgrade the SCCP's capability and thus speed up the market's settlement system. The acquisition, however, is being vehemently opposed by a group composed of five PSE directors led by former PSE chair Robert Coyiuto Jr.

In a briefing yesterday, Leung said the PSE board agreed to dilute its 30-percent stake in PCD to 20 percent in exchange for an increase in its stake in the SCCP from 51 percent to 100 percent.

The minority stake in SCCP is currently owned by three private banks-Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Equitable PCI Bank and Citibank NA—that also have stakes in PCD alongside the Bankers Assocization of the Philippines, Leung explained.

He said the PSE would not be spending anything to increase its stake in SCCP because it would simply swap a portion of its stake in PCD. Although the PSE board has approved the takeover bid, he also stressed that it would still be up to the banks with a stake in the two companies to decide to accept such an offer.

"The board has authorized the PSE management to negotiate the share-swap deal," Leung said. "The buyout will give us leeway in improving the settlement system."

Leung said the PSE aimed to speed up the settlement system in order to reduce the risks and eventually to adopt a real-time or T+0 system. At present, the clearing system takes three days (T+3).

Major fair to launch new era of Asean trade

ONE of the biggest trade fairs in Asia featuring the best and latest export products of members of the Asean will be held in October in Thailand.

The Asean Trade Fair 2002 (ATF 2002), which will be held at the IMPACT Exhibition Center in Bangkok from Oct. 14 to 20, will showcase the business and investment potential in Southeast Asia at a time when the region is tapping the full strength of regional economic integration. The fair will highlight a multitude of products from leading manufacturers and a business forum featuring trade ministers as speakers.

Since its establishment in 1967, Asean has become one of the most influential regional associations in the world, leading Southeast Asia's emergence as a global exporter and a center of innovation and best practice.

The ATF 2002 is the first trade fair in which all 10 Asean member countries will participate. The fair not only provides the road to regional integration, it is also a launching pad for a new era of Asean trade. Combining extensive trade exhibitions with discussions on trade and industrial cooperation, ATF 2002 anticipates at least 10,000 trade visitors and up to 100,000 members of the general public, offering countless opportunities for and investors to establish contacts with Asean corporations and government.

The fair will feature around 800 booths from nearly 500 companies from the six industries that best reflect Asean's strengths: agriculture and food, automotive, electronics and electrical, fashion and textiles, home fashion and accessories, and innovation and supporting industries.

The 10 Asean member-countries will have their respective pavilions where they can present their national image to the international and investment community.

The Philippine National Pavilion will celebrate Philippine creativity hand-in-hand with manufacturing capabilities by presenting a fashion lifestyle concept. The pavilion will showcase top Philippine brands in the fashion retail industry including Bench, Bayo, Island Souvenirs, Jag Philippines, Kamiseta, Penshoppe, Plains and Prints, and Sari-Sari.

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The 26th Annual PMAP Awards Program

In either flourishing or difficult times, developing resources makes good economic sense. The rise of formidable business entities can be attributed to good management practices, especially those guided by sound people-oriented policies.

Trust in people, not only in technology or profit, fuels lasting corporate progress. Enlightened companies do not wait for good returns before treating employees for they know that faith in people is a key investment to organizational growth.

Recognizing this, the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) launched in 1977 the Annual PMAP Awards Program. Since then, the award stood as a symbol of recognition of companies, institutions, groups and individuals in the practice of human resource management (HRM). The chief goal of the awards is to honor exemplary HR practices and professionals who help improve HRM in the Philippines.

Now on its 26th year, the Annual Awards Program has become PMAP's much awaited event, fittingly the highlight of the National Conference. Through the years, the PMAP Awards has given public honor to institutions, groups and individuals whose firm commitment to active involvement and exemplary contribution to the practice of HRM profession shall inspire others as well.

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MESSAGES

ERNESTO G. ESPINOSA, FPM
PMAP President

Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who have made this year's PMAP Awards a truly rewarding experience: the corporations and individual candidates, the distinguished Board of Judges, the PMAP Secretariat, and the Awards Committee led by Director Tess Villanueva and Chair Beth Nasol.

Over the years, PMAP has tried to raise the bar of the Awards in so far as the quality of candidates, criteria, manner of selection and judging, and procedure are concerned. And the PMAP Board 2002 has done its share by ensuring that every activity leading to the Awards Night has been carefully planned and done in accordance with the highest standards of excellence.

The Employer of the Year, Personnel Manager of the Year and Personnel Program of the Year Awards are much coveted awards that have served as epitomes of exceptional performance, both in the corporate and individual levels, in the highest order. They have become seals of approval coming from the premier human resource organization in the Philippines. And because of the very good track record of PMAP in the advancement of the human resource management profession, the corporations and individuals who obtained such awards in the past have been given the due recognition by their peer companies and individuals.

Congratulations to all the winners this year. I can only say that you will definitely be able to relish such awards in view of the colorful history that accompany them.

Mabuhay!

TERESITA A. VILLANUEVA, FPM
Director-In-Charge Awards Committee

Indeed, excellence thrives in our midst. But the road to recognition is never an easy route. This year's 26th PMAP Awards winners sowed good seeds. And as this year's outstanding awardees, they are before us to reap the fruit of success. Fittingly, the recognition bestowed by PMAP is our own salute to the winners, namely:

Moog Controls Corporation as the Outstanding Employer of the Year, Imelda H. Centeno as the Personnel Manager of the Year and JAD Group of Companies' Employee to Entrepreneur (E2E) Program as the Personnel Program of the Year. They are undeniably this year's best and fitting exemplars of Human Resource Management in the Philippines.

My congratulations to all the nominees and the awardees whose exploits you shall read from the pages of this memento. My gratitude to the untiring members of the Board of Judges and the Awards Committee for taking time from their hectic schedule to go through the process of selection while keeping the integrity and prominence of the PMAP Awards.

Leading the PMAP Awards Committee was a learning experience for me. I likewise enjoin you to learn from the best practices of our 2002 PMAP Awards winners. Certainly, we will all benefit from it.

Congratulations!

MA. ELIZABETH D. NASOL
Awards Chairperson

It has been a truly rewarding experience to participate in the search for the best of the best. The process allowed me not only to look for the company to emulate but more importantly, I was able to see new and better ways of managing the human resource function.

As we celebrate the 26th year of the PMAP Annual Awards, I would like to pay tribute to these outstanding organizations that have distinguished themselves in the field of human resource.

I would like to extend my warm congratulations to this year's winners Moog Controls Corporation for the Outstanding Employer of the Year, JAD Group of Companies for the Personnel Program of the Year and Ms. Imelda H. Centeno for being the Personnel Manager of the Year.

My deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Board of Judges and members of the Awards Committee for the time and effort in upholding this very important endeavor of this Association.

I would also like to extend my great appreciation to all the companies and individuals who participated in this year's search. Your programs have shown that indeed, the human resource is the most important asset of any organization.

Congratulations!

PROGRAMME

26th Annual PMAP Awards
Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City
September 27, 2002

GRAND OPENING NUMBER	- Val San Diego Dance Troupe
INVOCATION	- Ms. Elizabeth Nasol Chair, Awards Committee
REPORT OF THE 2002 AWARDS COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION: BOARD OF JUDGES AND AWARDS COMMITTEE	- Ms. Teresita A. Villanueva, FPM Director-in-Charge, Awards Committee
TRIBUTE TO THE PERSONNEL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARDEE	- Ms. Isay Alvarez
INTRODUCTION OF THE PERSONNEL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARDEE	- Commissioner Albert Quimpo Chairman, Personnel Program of the Year Award
RESPONSE OF THE AWARDEE	- Mr. Jay Bernardo President, JAD Group of Companies
TRIBUTE TO THE PERSONNEL MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARDEE	- Mr. Robert Seña
INTRODUCTION OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARDEE	- Ms. Solita V. Delantar, FPM Member, Personnel Manager of the Year Award
RESPONSE OF THE AWARDEE	- Ms. Imelda Centeno Vice Pres. HR & OD United Laboratories, Inc.
TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARDEE	- Mr. Robert Seña & Ms. Isay Alvarez
INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARDEE	- Raul C. Hernandez Chairman, Employer of the Year Award
RESPONSE OF THE AWARDEE	- Mr. Joe C. Green EVP, Chief Administrative Officer & Director MOOG, Inc.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Mr. Eddie Mercado

WTO agriculture talks far from agreement

GENEVA—Members of the World Trade Organization disclosed Wednesday that they were still far from agreement after five days of talks on reducing barriers to agricultural trade.

Nations that want to see an end to farm subsidies and countries that are the biggest users of such payments accused each other of dragging their heels in the talks, which form part of a wide-ranging WTO trade round.

"We are concerned that some members haven't engaged with specific proposals. Agriculture is the key," said Linnet Deily, US ambassador to the WTO. The United States is one of the countries pressing for firm commitments on the elimination of export subsidies and major reductions in other support programs for farmers.

But major subsidizers like the European Union, Switzerland and Japan say they need to see offers in other parts of the negotiations before they can make firm offers on agriculture.

"It's clear that a group of countries is looking for complete liberalization of agriculture without offering anything," countered Luzius Wasescha, head of the Swiss delegation to the negotiations.

"It seems to me a very strange strategy to request a maximum in agriculture and to refuse to enter into the substance of rules which have an impact also on the agriculture reform processes."

Japanese negotiators said other countries should bear in mind that the trade round is a "single undertaking"—there cannot be a deal in agriculture without a deal in other areas such as tariffs on industrial products. Countries that are reluctant to make big sacrifices in agriculture hope to reach compromise by offering more flexibility in other areas.

"Overall balance is the name of the game," said Hidenori Murakami, director general for international affairs in Japan's Ministry of Agriculture. "We are playing in the whole ballpark of single undertaking."

"We would certainly recognize that it is a single undertaking," Deily said. "But by all accounts for most countries agriculture is the key concern and our issue at this point is simply wanting to see proposals on the table."

The 18-nation Cairns Group of countries that use few farm subsidies—including Australia, Canada and Brazil—are demanding big cuts in the subsidy programs of the European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Japan and South Korea.

Though the United States claims to be a Cairns Group ally, there are also concerns about the effect that massive US emergency aid payments and other farm support has on international trade.

The European Union, which spends half its entire budget on agricultural subsidies, and its allies say they are prepared to cut back their programs but in return they want recognition of other issues related to farming, such as countryside protection and animal welfare.

According to the timetable set in Doha, Qatar, last year, the round should be completed by Jan. 1, 2005, but to achieve that, negotiators first must meet a deadline next spring to agree on the exact formulas for cutting trade barriers.

Many Cairns Group and developing countries want to see countries making individual commitments on levels of tariffs in each sector of agricultural trade. But the European Union and its supporters prefer an across-the-board cut in tariff rates that would allow them to make smaller reductions in areas that are especially sensitive.

Negotiators will meet again in November. *AP*

US SEC to act against company directors who neglect duty

WASHINGTON—The Securities and Exchange Commission will take action against company directors who neglect their duty to protect shareholders against abuses by companies, the agency's enforcement chief said Wednesday.

In Enron's stunning collapse, the company's outside directors were found to have failed in their watchdog duties in two reports: one issued in February by a special Enron committee and a second by a Senate panel in July.

A Senate governmental affairs subcommittee found that Enron's directors closed their eyes to evidence the energy-trading company was careening toward financial disaster. Its report concluded that claims by former directors they were kept in the dark were untrue.

The SEC has been pursuing a civil investigation of Enron's accounting practices while the justice department has conducted a criminal inquiry.

The SEC's enforcement director, Stephen Cutler, was asked by a reporter whether the agency was pursuing directors of companies embroiled in the recent accounting scandals.

"Let me clear about this," Cutler replied. "There is no accounting or financial reporting case that we are investigating in which we don't closely scrutinize the conduct of the board of directors, including outside directors. And we will not hesitate to bring enforcement actions against outside directors if they are culpable."

The question was prompted by a report in Wednesday's Wall Street Journal that the SEC had decided not to pursue in the immediate future any enforcement action against Enron's directors.

Referring to the Journal report, SEC chair Harvey Pitt said in a statement: "Recent press speculation about purported (SEC) decisions with respect to 'forgoing' enforcement actions in connection with ongoing investigations is factually inaccurate and irresponsible."

Spokesmen for the newspaper had no immediate comment.

Legal experts acknowledge that it is difficult to make such cases against company directors because of stringent standards of proof under federal law.

"Those are very hard things to prove," David Ruder, a former SEC chairman who teaches law at Northwestern University, said Wednesday.

Besides, he noted, with the dozens of big companies it is investigating for accounting problems—including WorldCom, Global Crossing and Adelphia Communications—the SEC "has an enormous number of things on its plate right now."

In its 60-page critique of Enron's directors, the Senate panel said that "much that was wrong with Enron was known to the board."

Attorneys for the company and the directors have disputed the findings.

The internal Enron report, led by University of Texas Law School dean William Powers, found that the directors "failed ... in oversight duties."

Lawmakers have said Enron directors approved complex financial arrangements knowing that the company's management freely handed out bonuses—some $50 million for closing a deal for an electric power project in India that subsequently failed, for example.

In addition, many of the directors themselves had conflicts of interest, according to lawmakers who cited consulting contracts worth millions that some of them had with the company and ties they had with charities that received large donations from Enron.

The directors—and top Enron executives—have been widely criticized for reaping hundreds of millions of dollars from selling their company stock in 2000 and 2001. Many ordinary employees lost nearly all their retirement savings as Enron stock fell over a period of several months and they were blocked from selling it for about three weeks last fall.

Many of the directors, along with Enron executives, have been named in a lawsuit by shareholders. *AP*

American Airlines chief warns of Iraqi war's peril to industry

NEW YORK—The chief executive of American Airlines said Wednesday that a war in Iraq would be a devastating blow to the already distressed industry, warning that more bankruptcies were likely without additional financial assistance from the federal government.

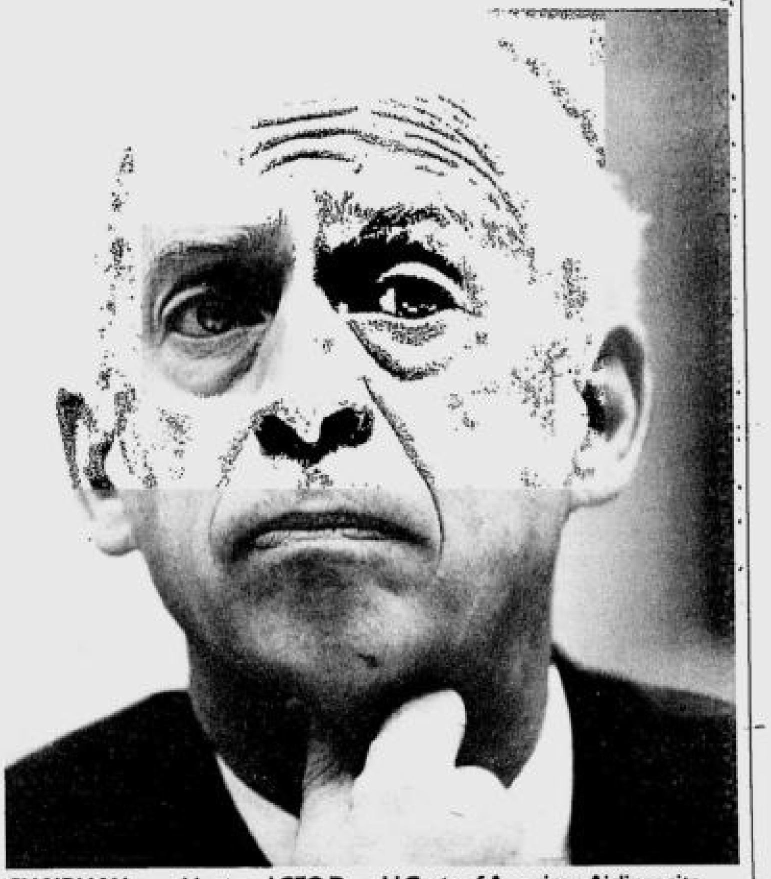
Don Carty, speaking at a breakfast with Wall Street analysts and reporters, said the potential drop-off in travel from a war in Iraq would be like an "economic anvil dropped on the industry."

"The whole industry in Chapter 11 (bankruptcy protection) isn't something the country would tolerate," said Carty, who had joined other airline executives in Washington a day earlier to lobby Congress for help.

Carty said AMR Corp., the parent company of the largest US carrier, would be forced to make further cutbacks in the event of a war, particularly in its trans-Atlantic flight schedule, although he could not say by how much.

Carty said the severity of the war-related cutbacks would depend on the duration of any military operation in Iraq and just how much further travel demand might fall. International travel declined by 20 percent for about two months during the Gulf War a decade ago and then gradually came back, Carty said, but because demand is already so weak the decline in demand this time around could be less sharp.

"The question is how do we get through those couple of months," he said.



CHAIRMAN, president and CEO Donald Carty of American Airlines sits prior to testifying before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. Carty is to testify before the subcommittee on aviation about the financial condition of the airline industry.

AFP

On Tuesday, Carty and Delta Air Lines chief executive Leo Mullin asked the House aviation subcommittee to consider fuel tax relief, reimbursement for security costs and an extension of the terrorism insurance policies issued by the government after the Sept. 11 attacks. *AP*

Ford CEO says firm to boost production in 4th quarter

PARIS—Ford Motor Co. chief executive officer William C. Ford Jr. said on Wednesday the company plans to increase production in the fourth quarter, citing recent strong sales.

The CEO of the No. 2 auto maker didn't specify by how much output would be increased, but he said it wouldn't be "a whole lot."

Ford spoke to reporters on the sidelines of an industry conference, ahead of an international car show in Paris.

Ford also said the company's US restructuring, based on the turnaround strategy at its Ford of Europe unit, is making progress. The Dearborn, Michigan, auto maker, which lost more than $5 billion last year, unveiled a turnaround plan in January to return to long-term profitability.

He declined to confirm speculation that the company's Jaguar luxury brand is losing money, saying only that "Jaguar is struggling." He noted that the brand has grown rapidly in some markets. In the United States, Jaguar sales are up 65 percent so far this year, he said.

In July, Ford posted net income of $570 million, or 29 cents a share, in the second quarter, primarily because of increased production in North America. It was the first profit the auto maker had reported in a year.

Earlier this month, Ford said it expects to turn a "small profit" in the third quarter before any items. Analysts had expected the company to post a loss.

US sales in August rose 13 percent to the highest level this year, driven by sweeping no-interest-financing offers. Ford's auto sales for the month were up 8.2 percent to 364,776. *AP*

Judge says WTC lessor can't collect insurance twice

NEW YORK—A federal judge sided with three insurers Wednesday, saying the World Trade Center's leaseholder wasn't entitled to collect twice because the towers were hit by separate planes.

US District Court Judge John S. Martin agreed that the wording in contracts with the Hartford Fire Insurance Co., Royal Indemnity Co., and St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Co. allows them to consider the Sept. 11 terrorism as a single occurrence.

The judge must still decide the issue for more than 17 other companies that insured the trade center's leaseholder, Silverstein Properties.

Gerald McKelvey, a spokesman for Silverstein Properties, noted that the three insurers together were responsible for only $112 million of coverage.

"Obviously, we disagree with the ruling and will consider an appeal at the appropriate time," he said.

Silverstein estimates its losses related to Sept. 11 at $8.2 billion. The total includes $5.7 billion for the twin 110-story skyscrapers, retail property at the site and Buildings 4 and 5, which were destroyed.

Swiss Reinsurance Ltd., the company responsible for 22 percent of the coverage under the trade center's multi-layer policy, asserts that Silverstein cannot recover more than $3.5 billion of proceeds under that policy because it considers the terrorism one event.

In his ruling, Martin said the wording of a legal document used in agreements with the three companies made it clear that the terrorism could be viewed as a single occurrence.

"The ordinary businessman would have no doubt that when two hijacked planes hit the twin towers in a 16-minute period, the total destruction of the World Trade Center resulted from one series of similar causes," Martin wrote. *AP*

Heineken secures Egyptian brewery

CAIRO, Egypt—Dutch brewer Heineken has secured 97.8 percent of Egyptian brewer Al Ahram Beverages Co. in its $287- million takeover bid, ABC's executive chair said Wednesday.

Heineken made a public bid Sept. 12 of $14 a share for ABC's 20.49 million shares, resulting in a takeover price of $287 million, providing 100 percent of the shares are offered to Heineken.

By the 1700 GMT Wednesday deadline for offers from ABC's shareholders, Heineken had secured 20.04 million shares, or 97.8 percent, of ABC, and the deal will be sealed on Sunday, Ahmed Zayat, ABC's executive chair and CEO told a news conference.

Zayat said two other international beverage companies had made a bid for Al Ahram Beverages apart from Heineken.

ABC, which is listed both on the Cairo Stock Exchange and the London Stock Exchange, had a net profit of $22.8 million in 2001 on sales of $105 million.

It produces around 430,000 hectoliters of beer. The brewer is best known for its pilsner brand Stella, but is also strong in the market segment of nonalcoholic malt beverages. *AP*

Nobel Prize-winning lab fires researcher after finding work fraudulent

TRENTON, New Jersey—Bell Labs, the renowned research arm of Lucent Technologies, has fired a star researcher after an independent review committee found the man falsified and fabricated experimental data.

The committee determined that Jan Hendrik Schon made up or altered data on at least 16 occasions between 1998 and 2001, the first such fraud ever at the Nobel Prize-winning laboratory, Lucent said in a prepared statement released Wednesday. The committee cleared about 20 other researchers from Bell Labs and other institutions who worked on the research or helped write reports on it published in scientific journals.

"The evidence that manipulation and misrepresentation of data occurred is compelling," the committee wrote in a report made public Wednesday. Schon "did this intentionally or recklessly and without the knowledge of any of his co-authors."

The experimental results involved research by Schon and other scientists in the hot fields of superconductivity, molecular electronics and molecular crystals. The findings were published in several prominent scientific publications, including the journals Science, Nature and Applied Physics Letters.

Scientists elsewhere began questioning the validity of the research because they could not reproduce the experiments—a standard way to evaluate the accuracy of research claims.

In May, Bell Labs retained five prominent scientists and engineers to investigate. The committee, chaired by Malcolm Beasley, an applied physics professor and former dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences at Stanford University, was given free rein to interview Lucent employees and review the challenged research, lab records, reports of Lucent's prior internal investigations of the research, and other documents.

Schon, a German native and a rising star in the hot field of nanoelectronics—creating molecule-sized electronic components—cooperated with the researchers and continued his work at the lab.

In an interview with The Associated Press in May, he said, "I am confident in the measurements that I made, but since the panel is already in place I think it would be inappropriate to comment in more detail."

He could not immediately be reached for comment Wednesday.

The committee submitted its report late Tuesday and Schon, 32, was then fired. He had been employed at Bell Labs since 1998, starting as an intern and then moving up to become a full-time member of its technical staff in May 2001.

"We are deeply disappointed that a case of scientific misconduct has occurred at Bell Labs—the first in our 77-year history," the laboratory president, Bill O'Shea, said in a prepared statement. *AP*

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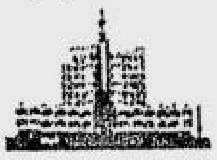

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BOOKKEEPER
Computer literate, 21-28 years old, w/ w/o experience
Call 297-4483 Cecil Mata

MALE/FEMALE

BEAUTY CONSULTANT 5276418

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

★Ofc Staff 7136116 Aira ★

HRD STF 09194639391 IRIS

OFCSTF MARG 09103533481

•PROMO RELIEVER•
F 5'2"/M 5'6", Single, Speak English
Coll. Level, Alabang, Pasig & Makati Area
850-1509 look for Ms. Gena

RESORT ND INVENTORY CLERK CASHIER / WAITER T-7521786

SUPERVISOR LEAH 5612388

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late JOSE CAMARA PASTORES was extrajudicially by his heirs as per Doc # 1264; Page # 251; Book VI; Series of 1999 before Notary Public Laura Irynn May O. Padua of Quezon City.
PDI-Sept 27, Oct 4 & 11, 2002

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Makati Avenue, Makati City

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Twelve (12) pads UCPB Official Receipt (UCPB Form # 0-3609) bearing Serial Nos. A-2041501 - 2042100.

The above missing Official Receipts, intended for **UCPB New Manila Branch** and in the custody of the courier **JLI Transport System** at the time of loss, has been cancelled and invalidated and payments purportedly covered by it shall be dishonored.

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
(SGD.) TERESITA V. RIVERA
AVP - CSD

(PDI--Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Stock Certificate No. 5 issued to Domingo S. Guevara, Jr., Stock Certificate No. 6 issued to Herbert Sy and Stock Certificate No. 11 issued to Melchor C. Orosa consisting of one (1) share of stock each of Autoliv OB, Inc.

Should there be anyone who is in possession of or who would like to contest Stock Certificate Nos. 5, 6 and 11, please inform the Corporate Secretary of Autoliv OB, Inc. of said possession or contest within one (1) year after the last publication of this notice at the following address:

Atty. Celso L. Cruz
6th Floor Citibank Center
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

After the period of one (1) year from the last publication of this notice, the right to contest Stock Certificate Nos. 5, 6 and 11 shall be barred and new stock certificates shall be issued in lieu thereof.

(PDI-Sept. 13, 20 & 27, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late EUFRECINA C. CLERIGO was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Doc#251; Page 52; Book XIV. Series of 2002 of Not. Public Glen C. Manahan of QC.
(PDI-Sept. 27, Oct. 4 & 11, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late spouses EDUARDO R. MAGAY SR. and FELISA MAGAY has been settled Extrajudicially by their heirs per Doc.#112, Page#23, Book #III, Series of 2002 by Notary Public Federico T. Macabangun of Olongapo City
(PDI-Sept.27,Oct.4&11,2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given that S2 License of BENJAMIN R. CRUZ was lost. If no contest received, new license will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 27, 30 & Oct. 1, 2002)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

CLOSE VAN OWNER Who want to be PARTNERS in Cargo Forwarding T-5343147 Mandy

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is given of the loss of Immigration Certificate of Residence no. 12696 issued to Ang Min Kay Chinese by the Bureau of Immigration on July 20, 1946.
(PDI - Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 2002)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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TRAVEL N EARN FR HOME 8531008 09178901851 earn-and-travel.com

Secure Ur Financial Future Singaporeans looking for business partners /distributors in Manila to market a unique product from France Call 0916-6286303

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722-1144
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G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.)
CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 716-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8509, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1780
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (075) 522-3151, 522-2128, (0917) 434-9978
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543, 346-7601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels. 231-0721, 231-1192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1158
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 710-2003, 781-3706, 781-3088, 413-9400, 716-6994
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3805, (047) 611-1088, (047) 222-1612, (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City. Tel. 811-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-6102, 741-5128, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3004
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 281-2903, 281-3034, 281-5922
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2050, (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City. Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City. Tels. 641-7059; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila. Tels. 642-3010, 633-3802
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote, Alabang, Las Piñas. Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City. Tels. 890-3556; 890-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281, 675-0280, (0917) 895-0803
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite. Tels. (046) 471-3375, 471-2875
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calzada Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila. Tels. 642-8181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City. Tels. 825-1236, 825-1281
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680138, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City. Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6631 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3808 to 11, 712-3081, 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque. Tels. 820-1592, 825-0947; 825-8635
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79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City. Tel. (074) 443-3337, (074) 442-3117
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G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite
Tels. (046) 471-3388, (046) 471-4417, (046) 571-1078
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City. Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3198 to 98, 941-3670, Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal. Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209; 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960, 515-0529, 522-8783, (0919) 346-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5221 to 25, 714-0087, 714-0808
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.
Mandalagan, Bacolod City. Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Camerino St., Pasay City. Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-3687, (0915) 712-1229
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City. Tel. Nos. 843-[illegible], Fax No. 843-0223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Telefax 724-4130, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City. Tels. 852-8028, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
18-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679, 781-1777
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
286 Quezon Ave., Quezon City. Tels. 372-1044, 410-5288/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3707, 844-7846, 843-1801, 845-1836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila. Tels. 522-0846, 522-9438; 400-5384

In Loving Memory
of the First Death Anniversary
of

ROBERTO (BOBBY) MUSNI SALLE

who joined his Creator on September 27, 2001

His family: wife Alice D. Rodrigueza; children Karinna and Jeremy Gatdula, Kristine, Sonny; and granddaughter Ruelo; relatives and friends are offering the following Masses:

Sanctuario de San Jose .... 7:15 a.m.
Greenhills
Our Lady of Assumption Church .... 5:30 p.m.
Guinobatan, Albay
Our Lady of the Gate Parish .... 6:30 a.m.
Daraga, Albay
St. Gregory the Great Cathedral .... 5:30 p.m.
Albay
St. Jude Catholic Church .... 6:45 a.m.
Legazpi City
St. John the Baptist Church .... 5:30 p.m.
Tabaco, Albay
St. Michael Church .... 12:15 p.m.
Fort Bonifacio, Makati
Our Lady of Fatima Chapel .... 7:00 p.m.
DBP Village, Las Piñas

Please join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

EDUARDO E. PASCUAL, SR.

October 13, 1917 - September 22, 2002

His loving wife **Fe Remy**; his children **Sonia, Mabel, Menchu, Jovette, Jojo, Mency, Tanti**; his grandchildren **Nichole, Megan, Gaston, Karl, Jemboy, Justin, Aina, Alex, Dado, Jessica** and other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Enriquez at Barangay San Nicholas, F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City, Tarlac.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 28, 2002 at the Pura Municipal Cemetery after the 7:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

The Management and Staff
of

Pfizer

Pfizer, Inc.

announce with deep sorrow the demise of our colleague

Joemen P. Ebuña

who passed away on September 25, 2002 at the age of 42.

His family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Greenhills Memorial Homes, Corrales corner Chavez Streets, Cagayan de Oro City.

JAIME ELEAZAR RACELIS, JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 24, 2002 at the age of 61.

His bereaved wife Virginia Sison; children Regina, Jason, Andrea; grandson Rae Andreu; sisters Purita, Marietta, Eusebia, Caridad, Sr., Corazon, request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels (near Evergreen Memorial Garden) C. Raymundo cor. Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City on Saturday, September 28, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington Capilla C.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord!"
Matthew 10:39

CLASSIFIEDS

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COOPERATIVE BANK OF LANAO DEL SUR (CBLDS)

1. Starting September 30, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly designated Transferee Bank, the Philippine National Bank – Marawi Branch shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Cooperative Bank of Lanao del Sur (CBLDS)**.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the Philippine National Bank – Marawi Branch located at Perez Street, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, from September 30, 2002 to December 12, 2003, Mondays thru Fridays, during regular banking hours.

   Depositors may also file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to PNB – Marawi Branch authorized personnel when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC through its Transferee Bank for the processing and/or settlement of the claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Cooperative Bank of Lanao Del Sur is on **December 12, 2003**. After December 12, 2003, PDIC as insurer and PNB – Marawi Branch, as Transferee Bank shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Sept. 27 & 28, 2002)

RP hosts international Glaucoma meet

THE PHILIPPINE Glaucoma Society plays host to the Southeast Asian Glaucoma Interest Group (SeaGig) Congress ongoing until Sept. 28 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Featured international speakers include Dr. George Spaeth, Dr. Paul Palmberg, and Dr. Ivan Goldberg. For details, call the secretariat at 522-0541 to 48, or log on to www.seagig2002.org.

Siena's Rosary Crusade 2002

SIENA College QC launches this year's Rosary Crusade with the novena of masses, prayers and recitation of the Holy Rosary from Sept. 26 to Oct. 4. Now on its 35th year, the crusade is a call for everyone to pray for peace and unity in our families at home, at work and in the global family of nations. This year's theme is Fr. Patrick Peyton's "The Family that Prays Together, Stays Together." The activities will be held at Siena College Chapel daily at 8 a.m. On Oct. 4, the mass and rosary will start at 2 p.m. at Siena Hall to be culminated by the grand procession in honor of Mary, Queen of the Rosary. The crusade is organized by the Siena Rosary Crusade Foundation Inc. headed by college president Sr. Sofia Taguinod OP as chair and Fely Padua as vice chair, together with the Siena College Family Councils.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

INVITATION TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of various office supplies to:

A) Branches and Offices of the Clerks of Court of the Regional Trial Courts and Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region;

B) Branches and Offices of the Clerks of Court of the Regional Trial Court, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, Municipal Circuit Trial Courts, Shari'a District Courts and Shari'a Circuit Courts in the different provinces and cities in the country;

with an approved total budget of Forty Three Million Four Hundred Fifty Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Two Pesos (P43,454,682.00), Five Million Nine Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen Pesos (P5,935,916.00) for the NCJR and Thirty Seven Million Five Hundred Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Six Pesos (P37,518,766.00) for the different provinces and cities, chargeable against the current appropriations of the lower courts for supplies and materials.

Bids of the pre-qualified bidders will be received by the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Taft Avenue, Manila before 2:00 p.m. on **October 16, 2002**. All said time and date, sealed quotations submitted will be opened publicly by the Committee on Bids in the presence of the participating bidders and/or representatives at the **4th Floor Multi-Purpose Bldg., Supreme Court.**

Interested suppliers/dealers may obtain the necessary pre-qualification requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of the Administrative Services, Supreme Court, which should be submitted on **October 9, 2002** at 2:00 p.m., **4th Floor, Multi-Purpose Bldg.** A Pre-bid conference of qualified bidders will be held on **October 11, 2002** at the same time and place. Only bids of pre-qualified bidders will be entertained at the time of bidding.

Proposal forms, Terms and Conditions and list of office supplies subject of this particular bidding will be furnished to pre-qualified bidders, after payment of non-refundable P200.00.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

This invitation supersedes the invitation published on September 4 and 5, 2002.

September 19, 2002.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairperson
Committee on Bids

(PDI - Sept. 20 & 27, 2002)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE: **897-8808 loc. 514, 516**
899-4425; 897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO : **912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)**
MAKATI : **892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370**
KALAW : **528-0213, 527-3342**
MEGAMALL : **635-0219, 635-0220**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 920-0219; 928-8505 loc. 141 & 142

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) invites contractors classified and registered with the IAC on Registration and Classification of Contractor's to apply for Eligibility and to propose for the Re-bidding of the Renovation/upgrading of UPLB-Institute of Plant Breeding R & D Facilities for Varietal Improvement (Phase I):

Package I. Renovation and upgrading of the UPLB-IPB Specialized Laboratory Building and Seminar Room:
Package II. Extension/Expansion of the IPB Specialized Laboratory Building and Construction of a Generator House

Contractor Classification: Medium A for building with Electrical Specialty and with PCAB license
Cost of Bid Document: P 2,500
Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent: Oct. 4, 2002 at 5:00 PM

The proposed work to be undertaken shall include the furnishing of Labor, Materials and Equipment necessary to complete the project.

Contractors may obtain the Eligibility Statement Form and Bid Document from DA-BAR after presentation of Letter of Intent and Letter of Authority if filed by Firm's agent, together with the original of the approved renewal of PCAB License and IAC Registration and Classification and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,500.00.

Attention is invited to interested Bidders on the Pre-bidding schedule to be undertaken at the BAC Conference Room located at 2nd Flr. ATI, Q.C.

1. *Pre-Bid Conference .... October 8, 2002 at 2:00 PM*
2. *Deadline of Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Forms .... October 9, 2002 (up to 5 PM)*
3. *Deadline for Submission of Bids .... October 23, 2002 (up to 1 pm)*
4. *Opening of Bids .... October 23, 2002 (2 pm)*

Submission, opening, and Abstracting of Bid Submit in three (3) envelopes with the name of the project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters addressed to the BAC. For particulars, please contact: Mr. Rolando V. Labios or Mr. Angel S. Morcozo, Jr. at Tel. No. 920-0219 or 928-8505 loc. 141 & 142.

All particulars relative to the Pre-qualification, Bid Bond, Bank Statement/Deposit, Performance Bond, Bid Evaluation and award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other relevant laws and rules.

The Bureau reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids and waive any informality in the bid proposals received or to accept such as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ELISEO R. PONCE**
Director

(PDI--Sept. 20 & 27, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OMBUDSMAN BLDG., AGHAM ROAD, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Office of the Ombudsman is inviting prospective bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for:

-01- set BIOMETRICS SYSTEM FOR TIME AND ATTENDANCE MONITORING WITH KEYPAD AND CARD READER
(Proximity or Bar Code)
"Fingerscan Technology" Attendance and Leave Monitoring System

Accreditation requirement and bidding documents may be secured from the Property Management Section/General Services Division, 2nd Floor, Ombudsman Building, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING:

1. Pre-Bid Conference - **October 9, 2002 - 9:30 a.m.**
2. Deadline of Submission
   a. Prequalification Requirement - **October 15, 2002 - 4:00 p.m.**
   b. Sealed Technical and Financial Proposals - **October 23, 2002 - 10:00 a.m.**
3. Opening of Bids - **October 23, 2002 - 10:30 a.m.**

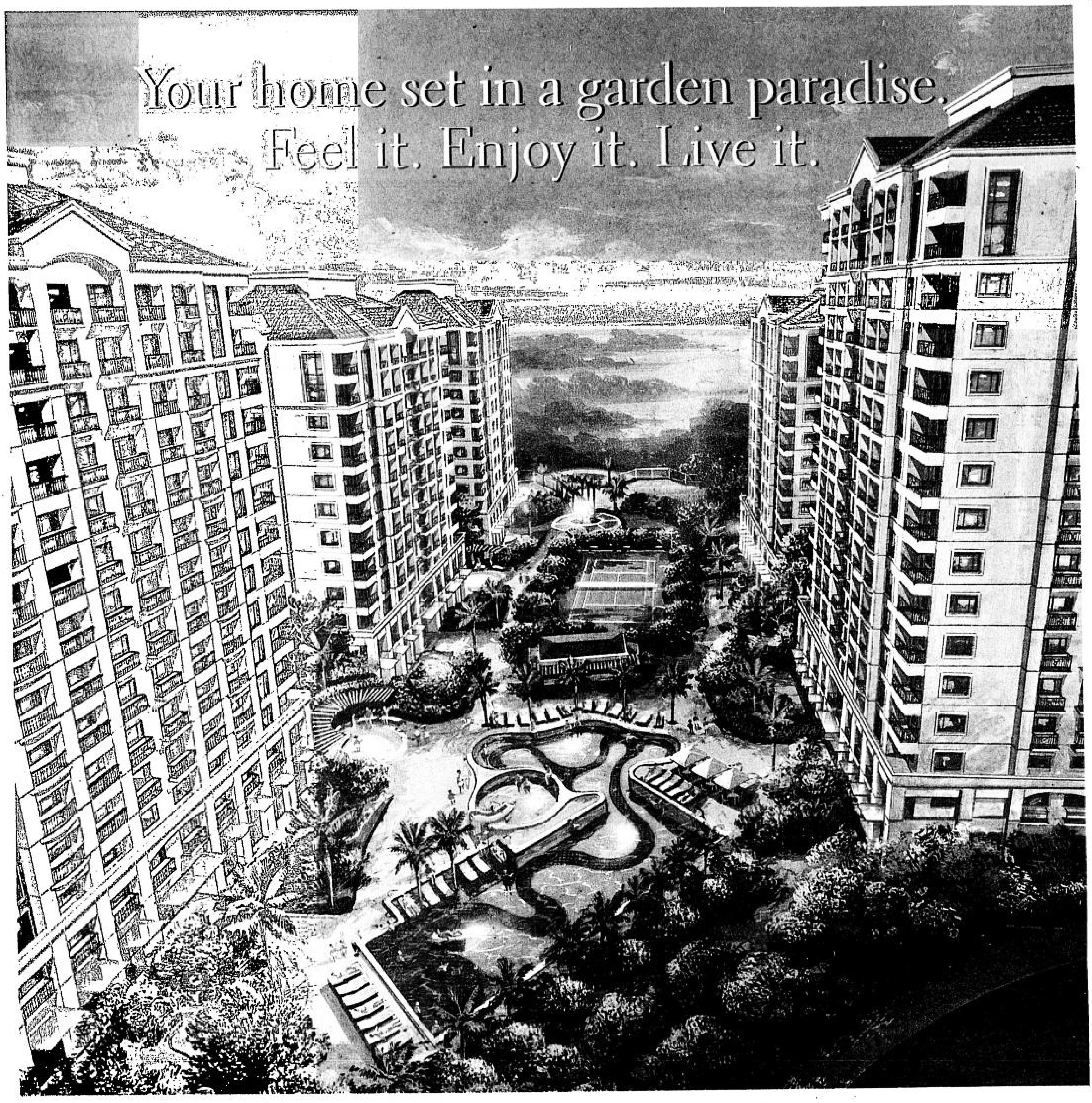
Bid documents will be issued upon payment of a Non-Refundable Fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00).

Financial proposal shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier's/Manager's Check and/or Cash Bond of at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The Office of the Ombudsman reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid, and to accept the bids most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ERNESTO M. NOCOS**
Assistant Ombudsman - PACPO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept 27, 28 & 29 2002)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FORBESWOOD HEIGHTS

LUXURY GARDEN RESIDENCES

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Unfold your winning form at the tennis court. Freshen up at the swimming pool. Spend the day shopping or the night partying at the Forbes Town Road. While the glorious greenscape of the Manila Golf course leaves you spellbound, every single day. Forbeswood Heights. Well-crafted homes blending with the easy ambience of its breathtaking landscape. Spectacular. Serene. Secure. Pampering you with a lifestyle that borders on the legendary.

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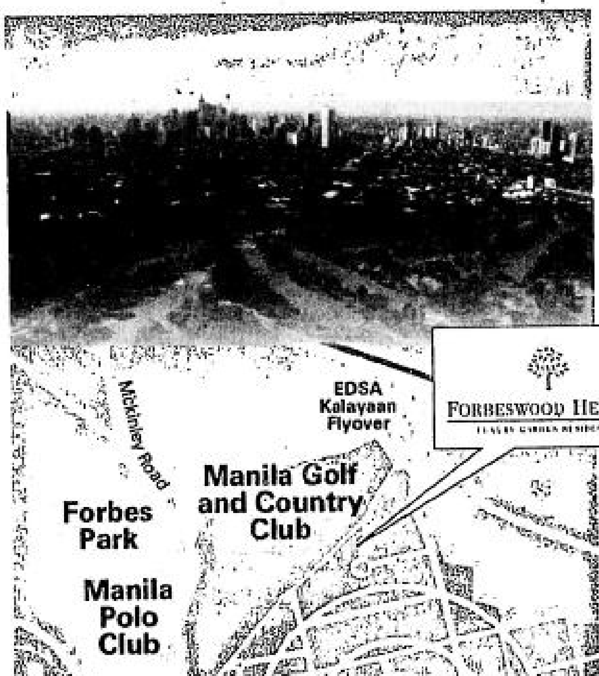
Find the answer to your needs just a step beyond your gates.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Forbeswood Heights
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Forbes Park
Manila Golf and Country Club
Manila Polo Club
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For Announcement Purposes Only

BUSINESS *Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

REYES

Pre-need firm taps moneyed Filipinos abroad for its plans

By Abigail L. Ho

MARKETING STRATEGY

WITH the pre-need industry still reeling from the blow caused by College Assurance Plan's P2.5-billion trust fund deficiency, industry players are cooking up gimmicks and strategies to gain back the trust of consumers.

Among these strategies is Prudentialife Plans Inc.'s online plan application that mostly targets overseas Filipino workers and potential clients who spend more time in front of their computers than on the field.

The brainchild of Prudentialife president Jose ALberto T. Alba, the online plan is Web-based and paperless but still carries the personal touch that one only gets from a face-to-face encounter with an agent.

"You have to look at the future and the Internet will play a very important role in business," says Alba who was responsible for the computerization of the pre-need firm.

Although he admits it is not expected to immediately bring in revenues, it has proven helpful in creating awareness of the firm's products.

PRE-NEED/ C2

Please the Pinoy tourist: Give him lots of shopping time

By Clarissa S. Batino

WHEN you go to factory outlets in the United States, chances are you will meet at least one group of Filipinos.

Go to a Giordano shop in Hong Kong and for sure a Filipino shopper just left or one is about to enter when you leave.

Ask a Filipino who has been to Hong Kong several times and chances are he has hardly seen anything of the place except its shopping areas.

Most Filipinos love shopping. Which is why a good number of Filipinos who go to Hong Kong for a few days lug two huge empty suitcases when he leaves that are bursting at the seams when he returns.

Recognition of such a trait has prompted some travel agencies to precisely fit their tour packages to the needs of the Filipino tourist—give them lots of shopping time.

"The average Filipino tourist is much easier to handle. One must know what he needs and that is where our marketing is focusing on," says Paul Leung, owner of the Holiday World Tours, an international travel agency which opened its first offshore unit in the Philippines 23 years ago.

Leung is also chair of the Hong Kong Inbound Travel Association.

To cater to Filipino tourists who mostly go to Hong Kong to shop, Holiday Tours has designed a package of four days and three nights with a Hong Kong City tour, a day trip to Shenzhen and a choice of breakfast in either McDonald's or two other fast-food chains, says the firm's marketing manager Viviene Chan.

A Western tourist would balk at the suggestion of eating at a McDonald's when in another country (unless there is no other choice) and would make it a point to see the famous spots but a Filipino will welcome a fast-food chair anytime if it means more time for shopping.

Chan, a Filipino who had been working in Hong Kong since he married a Chinese 13 years ago, says that Filipino tourists are not very choosy with their food. What is important is a competitively priced package that would leave Filipino travelers enough money to spend on shopping, she adds.

"You have to give Filipinos enough time to shop, feed them well, and you have to bring them to wherever they need to go. You have to pet the Filipino tourists unlike other travelers who prefer to go to these places on their own," says Leung.

He notes that unlike other foreign travelers, Filipinos won't get up at 6 a.m. to go to a tai chi class.

FILIPINOS prefer more shopping money than paying for fine dining.

Thus, they have included an optional Shenzhen shopping tour worth $25 per person covering about two hours of shopping in Shenzhen's Lo Wu shopping center, the shopping mecca in China. Also included in the package is a dinner and a shuttle from China back to the hotel in Hong Kong.

"The most important thing for tourist agents like us is to ensure that travelers are happy when they go home, that even if they had spent their money, they feel it is worth it," says Leung.

A Hong Kong package can cost as low as $170, which includes airfare, three days and two nights hotel accommodation and a day trip to Shenzhen China.

Thus many Filipinos opt to go to Hong Kong than visit Cebu or Davao, or even Boracay.

But the firesale prices of Hong Kong tours today won't be here for long, says Paul Leung, managing director of Holiday World Tours Ltd. whose knowledge of the Filipino tourist's psyche is surprisingly accurate.

The costs are expected to go up once Disneyland opens in the for-

PLEASE/ C3

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Tax goes Vaap

By Cirilo P. Noel
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

ASIDE from the tax diversion scam which hit the headlines, another burning issue of the day is the VAT under-declarations involving hundreds of millions of pesos representing under-declaration of more than 50 percent.

These anomalies have been uncovered by the BIR through the combined effects of access to the third party information mechanism and data management technology.

VAT under-declarations

BIR Commissioner Guillermo L. Parayno Jr. has announced that the BIR would complete the issuance of letters ordering companies found under-declaring their 10-percent VAT payments to settle their obligations immediately or face the consequences.

In an audit of close to 600 companies, the BIR discovered VAT under-declarations worth about P700 million from P7 billion worth of sales. The BIR has threatened to sue companies found cheating on their VAT payments.

The uncovering of the said VAT under-declarations was the result of the BIR's initiative of harnessing the third party information system in the Tax Code (Section 5).

Under the said system, the Commissioner has the power to obtain on a regular basis from any person including government agencies and entities any information such as receipts or sales and gross incomes among others of a particular taxpayer. The sources of third party information may include withholding agents, summary list of sales and purchases, informers, regulatory and annual reports submitted, and linkages with government agencies.

'Relief' program

Using the third party information mechanism, the BIR has launched a system with the Integrated Tax System the Reconciliation for Listing and Enforcement (Relief) program. The BIR said the Relief is generating firm and precise data on sales under-declarations not only on VAT but also on income and other taxes.

Simply put, the Relief system is basically matching the input VAT of taxpayers representing its purchases of goods and services covered by the summary list of purchases with the output VAT reported or declared by the (common) supplier of the said taxpayers.

The BIR matches the sales reported in the summary list of sales submitted by a taxpayer versus the output VAT reflected in the VAT returns filed by the said taxpayers.

The BIR expects that the Relief system will continue to uncover many and more under-declarations as the coverage of the matching and reconciliations is expanded to other return periods and as many other sources of third party information is connected to the system network.

With the Relief system in place, the BIR is giving taxpayers who have received a letter notice from the BIR of having under-declared to avail of the abatement program of the BIR.

Other taxpayers who may have had past under-declarations but have not received a letter notice to voluntary self assessment of the said under-declaration and pays a corresponding tax to avoid criminal and administrative actions such as closure, tax audit/investigation by the BIR.

Vaap program

This voluntary assessment and abatement program (Vaap) is the subject of Revenue Regulations No. 12-2002. The BIR has declared as a policy to treat and handle past under-declarations differently from those that will be committed beginning the third quarter of 2002. Thus, under- declarations for the second quarter of 2002 and prior quarters generated by the Relief system shall be entitled to the Vaap.

Under-declarations in the third quarter of 2002 and succeeding returns shall no longer be entitled to Vaap but shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Tax Code on enforcement and collection of.

Taxpayers with under-declared sales/receipts/income for the taxable years 2000, 2001 (both calendar and fiscal for income), and the first and second quarters of 2002 (ending June 30, 2002 for VAT and excise tax) that were or will subsequently be discovered under the Relief system, as well as similarly situated taxpayers, can avail of the Vaap.

In essence, taxpayers who received letter notice from the BIR to have under-reported sales/receipts generated by the Relief system can avail of the Vaap by paying before the deadline set in the letter and submission of the Vaap application form.

Taxpayers who have not received a BIR notice letter but have had under-declarations can also avail of the Vaap not later than Nov. 15, 2002.

The taxes covered by the Vaap are VAT, income tax, and excise tax from under-declared sales/receipts/income by persons subject to the said taxes.

BIR letter

The Regulations sets a minimum Vaap amount payable for those taxpayers who have received a BIR letter notice resulting from the Relief system as follows:

a) For VAT 3 percent for seller of goods and 6 percent for provider of services multiplied by the figure of the total discrepancy stated in the BIR letter notice;

b) For income tax—2 percent of the total sales/receipts stated in the BIR letter notice; and

c) For excise tax—2 percent of the total sales discrepancy stated in the BIR letter notice.

The minimum amount represents the base amount for the Vaap. It will be compared with 110 percent of the basic tax due. The Vaap payable will be the higher of the base amount or the basic tax due as calculated. It appears that the basic tax due calculation formula outlined in the Regulations is intended to validate the base amount. Please see the attached matrix for details of the calculation.

In terms of payment, for taxpayers who received a letter of notice from the BIR have to pay the minimum/base amount within 30 days from date of said letter. The income/VAT/excise tax payables based on the basic tax calculation formula are due for payment 45 days from date of BIR letter.

Thus, the Vaap program apparently covers two payments. One payment for the base/minimum amount and another payment (perhaps for the difference) in case the basic tax due as calculated is higher than the base amount.

Taxpayers who have not received the BIR letter of notice but wish to avail of the program must make submissions by paying 110 percent of the basic tax as calculated.

The Vaap payments shall constitute an abatement or cancellation of the penalties and shall be in lieu of surcharge, interest and penalties.

It is pertinent to note that unlike the previous voluntary assessment program of the BIR where there is the privilege of last priority in audit once qualified, the Vaap has no similar incentive to taxpayers who shall avail of the program. This is an issue that is still being decided by higher BIR management.

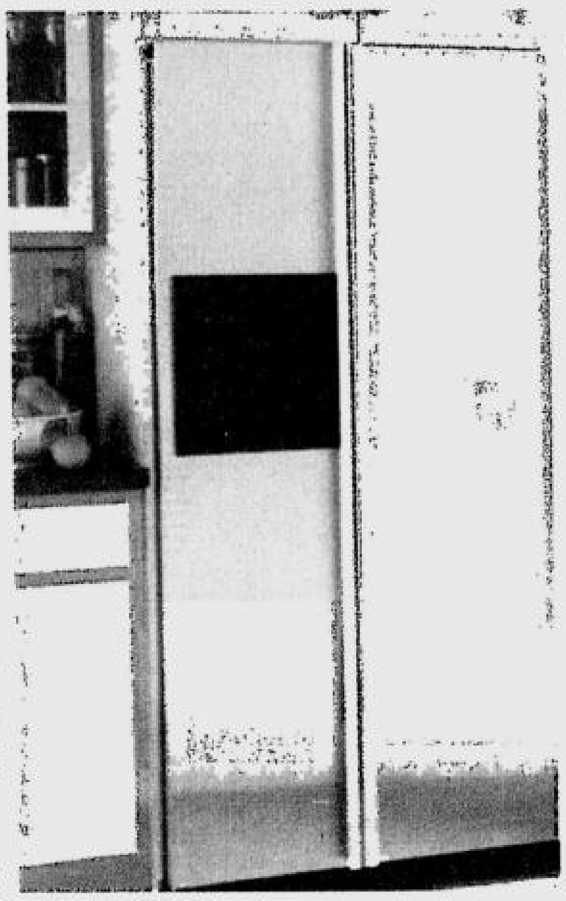
Under the Vaap, if the BIR subsequently discovers additional discrepancy through the Relief system and other processes where the additional sales discovered exceed the amount voluntarily disclosed by 10 percent or P1 million, whichever is lower, the Vaap availment shall be considered null and void.

The Vaap availment shall also be declared void in case the BIR discovers through Relief system overstatement of purchases or cost by more than 10 percent or P1 million, whichever is lower, of what has been voluntarily disclosed in the Vaap application.

The BIR is expected to issue a Revenue Memorandum Order that will set forth the detailed guidelines and procedures of the Vaap.

₱500,000 for a ref, anyone?

By Raul C.Dancel



REFRIGERATORS have become more than just household appliances meant to last for years. They have evolved into status symbols like cars.

TIME was when people called their refrigerators "Frigidaires." It was one of those brand names that somehow seeped into the vernacular. People used the word in pretty much the same way they did in expressions like *"Paki-Xerox nga 'to,"* when they wanted documents photocopied.

While a couple of these words are still widely used today, "Frigidaire" has become obsolete. Ask any teenager to get a Coke from the "Frigidaire" or "fridge," and he'd probably have a "duh?" look on his face.

GE Corp.'s new distributor is hoping that while the words "GE" and "General Electric" may never enjoy the same popularity as "Frigidaire," the brand name may at least be on top of every consumer's mind when it comes to refrigerators and other "white" appliances.

Parting ways

The "GE" brand was out of the market for over three years after its local distributor, the Philippine Appliance Corp., fell on hard times because of the Asian financial crisis.

Philacor had been doing well, until it decided to borrow in dollars to fund its expansion late in the '90s. The peso then was trading at P26:$1. It was more viable to borrow in dollars because the interest rates on these loans were lower compared with peso-denominated ones.

But the financial crisis hit the Philippines in 1997 and like most dollar-dependent companies, Philacor saw its debts double when the peso plunge to above P50:$1 by 1998. It also picked the wrong time to sell its property in Parañaque. No one was buying it at P25,000 to P35,000 per square meter.

Philacor posted net losses of P428 million in 1999 following a 25.5-percent year-on-year drop in revenues amid depressed consumer spending. That year, after 30 years of working together, GE and Philacor went their separate ways.

New distributor

CYA Industries Inc. took over Philacor's distribution rights with GE in January last year and by October had begun distributing GE's "white line"—appliances that traditionally are white in color, like refrigerators, washing machines, microwave ovens and air-conditioners.

For CYA's general manager, Franklin Chan, Philacor provides learnings on what not to do in the appliance business.

"We have our own formula for success. We try to be more realistic and updated." Chan says.

Before it went down, Philacor was one of the country's biggest manufacturers and distributors of home appliances. It was handling three brands that had over 65-percent market share—GE, Westinghouse and Hot Point.

Disadvantages

One of Philacor's disadvantages, according to Chan, was that it both distributed and manufactured its products.

"Philacor was a manufacturing company. It manufactured the single-door refrigerators that occupied about 80 percent of the market. The problem with that was that Philacor did not concentrate on other products of GE. It had to keep its factory working consistently and on only one product," Chan said.

Thus, after 30 years, Philacor had little incentive to diversify its products.

CYA is avoiding this pitfall. Although the margins are not as big as in manufacturing, it is concentrating on distribution. This has given it flexibility in terms of product lineup, allowing it to sell its products in much the same way that mobile phone firms are marketing theirs: luring consumers with the latest high-tech gizmos available anywhere else in the world.

CYA recently introduced a GE refrigerator equipped with a "constant cool technology." It has a "quick chill" setting for beverages that have to be freezing cold in just a few minutes.

"It has several innovations that, of course, the market welcomes because it makes life easier," says CYA marketing manager Norman Reynoso.

"What we have done is whatever is being launched in the United States, in Asia, in Europe, in other countries, we try to launch it simultaneously here in the Philippines. We try to present consumers innovative products," Chan says.

During its heydays, Philacor would have, at most, 20 models. CYA is currently selling 120.

Selling a ref

Selling a refrigerator, however, is still not quite the same as selling a cell phone, although in both cases technology can be used as a selling point.

A cell phone is still considerably cheaper than a refrigerator. CYA's top-of-the-line models can cost anywhere from P182,000 to about P500,000.

Then there's this mentality among Filipinos that "a ref is a ref." It's something that is bought once and used until it breaks down.

Chan says CYA believes the Filipino consumer is quickly getting the point.

"I think it's changing already," says Reynoso.

"More and more, what is happening is that the kitchen is being treated more as a centerpiece of the home," he adds. "It's not just functional. A lot of couples invite their friends to show their kitchen. Naturally, if they want their kitchen to look good, one of the biggest things that is on display is the refrigerator. In a way, a ref has become like a car: It's a status symbol."

Reynoso says despite the steep price, CYA already has at least one buyer of its P500,000 monogram model.

It is also a good thing for CYA that the brand sells itself.

A survey done by Reader's Digest showed that despite its absence, GE was still regarded in the Philippines as the "most preferred appliance brand" as far as refrigerators and washing machines were concerned.

CYA is building on this reputation to sell its products.

Good numbers

The numbers so far have been very good for CYA.

CYA is a regular at Bank of the Philippine Islands "Appliance Madness" held three times a year.

"The BPI exhibit is regarded by most, if not all, dealers as a barometer of what brands are accepted and preferred by the market.

Since CYA began joining on Oct. 16 last year, the GE brand has been No. 1 in the white line of appliances.

In the last BPI appliance sale, CYA made between P8 million and P10 million out of P120 million in total sales for all exhibitors.

Hanoi school dishes success for poor kids

HANOI (Reuters)—Chef Vinh has found his own recipe for rescuing Vietnamese teenagers from a life of poverty—by teaching them the finer points of making pastries.

Vinh, 25, is a veteran of Hoa Sua Vocational Training School, a non-profit cooking and housekeeping organization that helps poor youngsters like himself learn a valuable skill.

Most of the teenagers are orphans or those from families with dead or disabled servicemen who often miss out on the chance to get a good education and escape a life of menial labor.

"I wanted to help other students," Vinh says simply when asked why he didn't move to a better-paying job at one of the country's five star hotels.

He now heads a pastry class in the school, presiding over 20 to 25 teenagers who turn out scores of delectable desserts sold in Vietnam's capital city.

The three-story school that sits several kilometres outside Hanoi grew out of a desire by six local women, all retired teachers, to help poor children escape lives of desperation and drudgery.

Vietnam is one of the world's most impoverished countries, where the average annual salary is around $400. Street children often end up in vice or in dead-end jobs peddling shoe shines and postcards.

Since its birth in April 1995, the school has turned out nearly 800 graduates who provide a needed labor force for Vietnam's developing tourism industry.

Hoa Sua has come a long way from its first class of 20 students and its name has become well recognized within the city of 2.8 million residents through its restaurant, a bakery in the heart of Hanoi's old quarter, a catering service and an embroidery shop.

By last year, about 90 percent of its students had obtained full-time jobs having passed one-year courses in Asian or European cooking, baking, housekeeping and embroidery. Students are also taught primary education and foreign languages.

Soft-spoken Pham, 21, answering a visitor's questions during the bustle of a class on ironing, said she had been recommended by an orphanage to the school.

"I've been here three months," she said. "The teachers are nice. They can be strict, but it's to show us the right way." She said she would make twice as much money with the training, and that her salary would help support her grandmother, her sole relative.

Graduates have gone on to work at international hotels, restaurants in Vietnam and abroad, in embassies and in private homes.

Vinh arrived at the age of 19 at the Hoa Sua and was sent for a year's culinary training in France.

The school has done so well that a major patron, the United Nations Volunteers program, is weaning its funding by the end of the year after putting in $310,000 over four years and providing administrative training.

The UN program has also supplied about a dozen volunteer staff to the school, which receives no government money.

Reuters

Pre-need firm taps moneyed Filipinos . . .

From page C1

Prudentialife first vice president for alternative marketing Aly Reyes says the eprudentialife.com portal, which enables OFWs to look at pre-need proposals and even pay for the plans online, also aims to give Filipinos abroad a feel of what is happening in and around the country.

"The concept for the portal is actually a virtual *tambayan* for OFWs, with links to news and leisure sites and even sites that contain information relevant to OFWs. It contains anything and everything that an OFW needs to keep abreast with what's happening in the Philippines," he says.

But, of course, the highlight of the portal is the online application service for pension, life, education and other pre-need plans.

Aside from OFWs, Reyes says the target market for Prudentialife's fairly new service is the A and B market as the plans being offered online are currently only the premium plans.

He says OFWs and those people who do not exactly know where to put their excess cash usually fall prey to wrong investments and impulse purchases. Making pre-need plans more reachable and convenient to acquire lessens the risk of this happening.

"The dollar remittances of OFWs are usually spent on all sorts of things instead of being invested for the future. With this new service, OFWs' remittances can actually come in the form of a pre-need plan that their families can benefit from in the future," he explains.

Payment for the plans can also be made online for plan applicants with credit cards. Prudentialife has a tie-up with the Equitable Card Network for payments and Jetronics for verification of credit card information.

Reyes assures users that the company's payment gateway is completely safe, both for the buyer and the seller, because of signature and information security as well as a recurring payment system that assures automatic billing through a plan holder's credit card.

The company has a capitalization of more than P100 million as well as a solid reputation that has weathered many storms in the industry over the years.

Aside from the online application service, Reyes says Prudentialife has also equipped most of its agents with personal digital assistants or PDAs that contains plan proposals that they can show potential clients without the hassle of bulky papers.

Its intranet service has also been upgraded to allow employees to efficiently contact each other with questions, suggestions and other things that can help improve the output of the whole team.

In the pipeline is a text-based service that will send billing notices and other promos to existing planholders.

"We are in talks with Chikka (Holdings Ltd.) and Imperium (Technologies Inc.) for this service.

But this whole m-commerce thing will just be experimental," Reyes says.

While other pre-need players are struggling to regain consumer confidence to start ringing up sales again, Prudentialife will keep its focus on providing better services to its consumers to complement its traditional agent method with new alternative marketing instruments.

"We're really cooking up new ideas to drum up sales and make our customers happy and confident in us," he says.

RadioShack pinning sales hopes on toy cars

DALLAS—Walking down an alley in Hong Kong in January, Don Carroll was amused to see youngsters crowded around a tiny track, racing miniature remote-control cars, which they customized by swapping out engines and tires.

That night, Carroll was eating dinner in a restaurant when a couple in their 30s pulled out a pair of the pocket-sized toys and began playing on the tabletop.

Carroll and Joel Carter, both executives with RadioShack Corp., became convinced they were on to something. They brought samples of the cars home and held focus groups with American kids.

The rest, the executives hope, will be holiday retailing history, at $19.99 a pop. RadioShack is pinning its hopes for strong holiday toy sales on the little cars, which they dubbed ZipZaps.

The electronics retailer plans to unveil the toys Wednesday at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, for 200 kids.

Please . . .

From page C1

mer Crown Colony by 2006.

Hong Kong tour packages are expected to more than double to about $350 to $400 for each tourist.

The Hong Kong Tourism Authority expects Disneyland to attract 3.4 million visitors in its first year of operations and the number should double to 7.3 million in 15 years.

This early, the Hong Kong government in coordination with Walt Disney has started scouting for people who will be willing to don the Mickey Mouse outfit, possibly wearing a cheongsam .

The entrance fee to HK Disneyland would be about $60 to $80, says Leung.

Leung says the package tours to the Crown Colony will inevitably go up with the entry of Disneyland as hotels and airlines are expected to raise their rates too in anticipation of increased tourist inflows.

"We would like to be able to continue offering affordable packages even when Disneyland starts to operate that is why we are trying our best to make some forecasts this early. We know that Disneyland would be a big attraction to Filipinos," says Leung.

Aside from the Philippines, Holiday World Tours operates in Singapore, Thailand, and Canada where it brings tourists from these places to Hong Kong and vice versa.

Leung says the company captures 30 percent of Filipino travelers to Hong Kong. Having lived in the Philippines, Leung boasts of a vast understanding of the Filipino tourists and what he or she needs.

Leung started the Holiday World Tours Phils. Ltd. in the 1980s and since then, the company had been offering Hong Kong packages considered cheap by most local tourists.

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Small Scale Category (Non-fashion)

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Winners All! (From left to right) Mercury Drug Vice President Jacinto Concepcion; PRA Chairman Emeritus Samie Lim; Picture City Chairman Eliseo Santos; Islands Souvenirs President Jay Aldeguer; Folded & Hung President Ronald V. Pineda; Guest of Honor & Former DTI Secretary Jose T. Pardo; DTI Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal, Jr.; PRA Chairman Manuel M. Siggaoat; Penshoppe's Alice Liu; Penshoppe CEO Bernie Liu; Ayala Center Sr. Division Manager Francis D. Roxas; PRA Vice Chairman for Internal Bing S. Limjoco (partly hidden); Bayo President Ferdinand V. Agustin; PRA President Bienvenido V. Tantoco III (partly hidden); PRA Vice Chairman for External Roberto S. Claudio & Designer Blooms Managing Director Socorro R. Garcia (not in photo).

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Revolutionizing the prison handicraft program in Davao

PRISONERS create fancy furnishings from relics of the colony like the huge tree stump in photo on top.

THE MACALA administration of the Bureau of Corrections has been given a score of "outstanding for innovativeness" not for nothing.

It stretches correctional administration to its limits—from mundane requirements of the prisoners for water to the precipice of creativity as in revolutionizing their handicraft expression.

In the Davao Penal Colony, Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, where traditional use of electricity and usual forest products are commonly employed, a sudden change has been affected. The use of rubber silicon, resin and new materials have been utilized to form and upgrade readiness to compete in a highly contentious world of commerce.

A new cottage industry section in Dapecol was recently formed after a crack carpentry team, organized by Supt. Venjo Tesoro, produced high quality and durable furniture and handicrafts from mere tree stumps and roots.

What were only remnants and telltale signs of the colony's origins became Dapecol's ticket to trade exhibits, and further recognition as a venue of effective rehabilitation through correctional creativity.

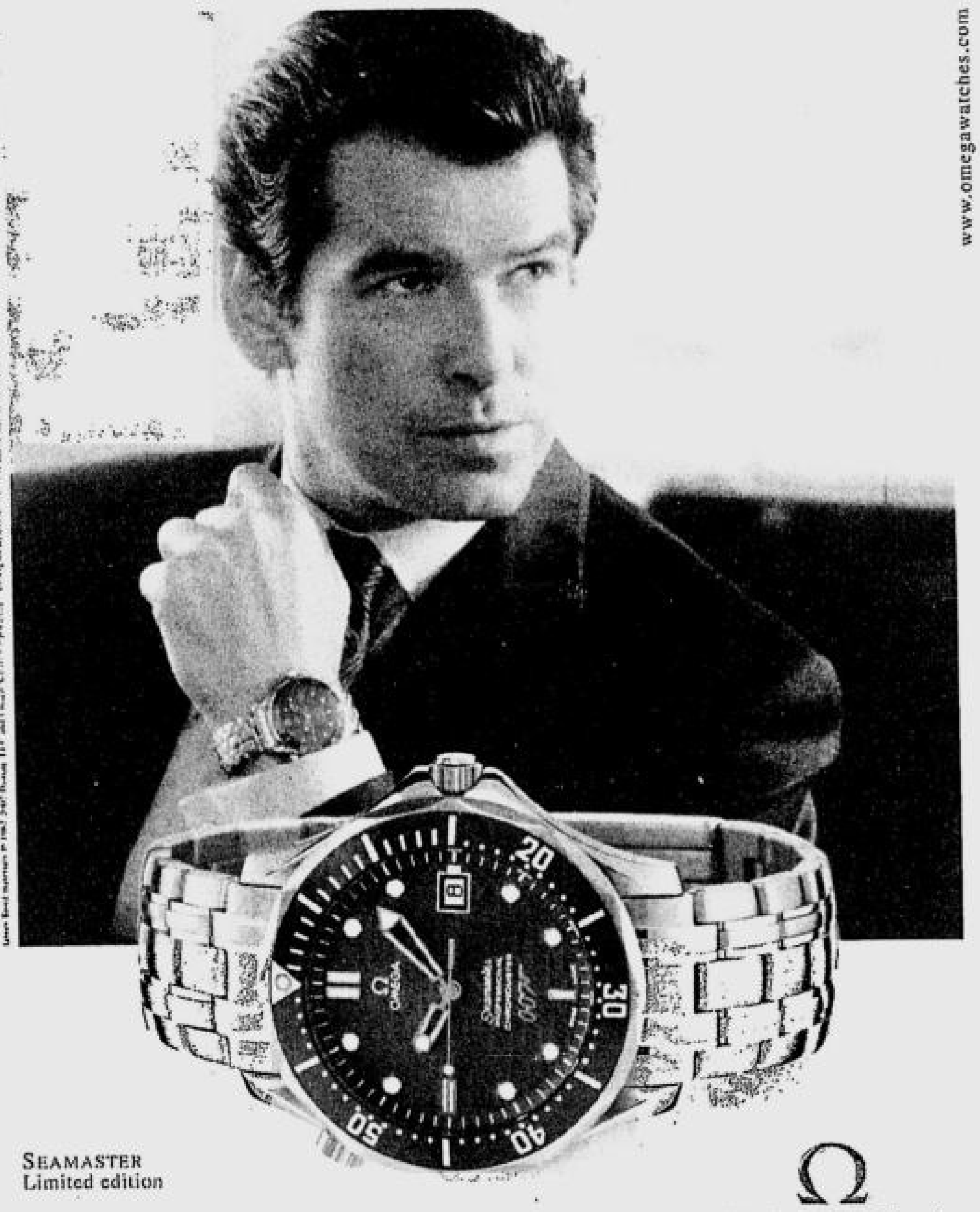
It all started with a thorough inspection of the colony and the valuable voluntary service of accomplished artist Myrna Limbert. Tree stumps and remains of the jungle from which Dapecol was carved from were uprooted. From the giant roots and stumps, useful, functional and fashionable furnitures, carvings and furnishings were produced. Soon, an informal presentation and product display within the compounds of the colony was flanked by visitors, and eventually brought the group to the town's trade fair.

Later, Dapecol even participated in the highly challenging Kadayawan Festival Agro-Trade Fair in Davao City where the finest products of Mindanao was also showcased. The participation was greatly successful with the purchase of all our products.

"This mood of transforming an idyllic handicraft program in Dapecol took a leaf of an inspiration from the policy of the preset administration to promote correctional creativity and rehabilitation through production work not only in outlying towns but even to the world," says Tesoro.

The success brought Dapecol's cottage industry to the limelight. With the inspiration from the recognition from different sectors of society, the colony stopped at nothing. A pilot farm project where only hybrid seeds were planted was also organized together with the North Davao Producers and Agri-Services. An abundant harvest of watermelons, vegetables and spices followed weeks after.

With these new dynamic rehabilitative programs, the policy of promoting prisons as tourist destination finds meaning from the creative atmosphere of the prison community. Such is the basis for Dapecol's move to revolutionize its programs.



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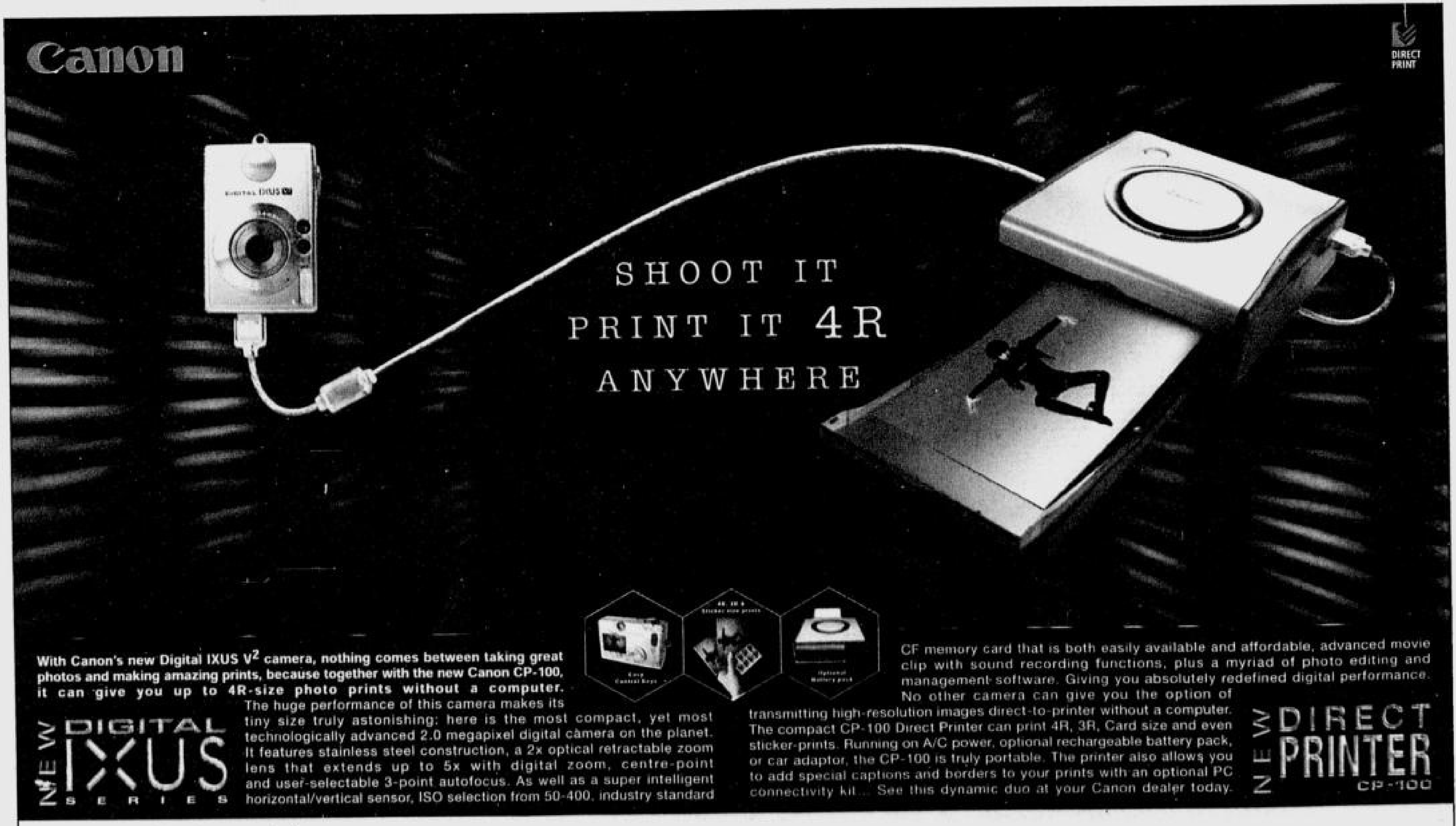

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IP address management training for Philippine ISPs

THE ASIA Pacific Network Information Center (Apnic) and Meridian Telekoms Inc. are teaming up to train network engineers in the valuable skills of planning, obtaining and managing the resources needed to operate Internet facilities. Meridian Telekoms is sponsoring part of a two-day Apnic training event in Manila on Internet Protocol (IP) address management.

Apnic's training experts, who train Internet technical staff throughout the Asia Pacific region, visited Manila for a one-day training course yesterday, and will conduct a half-day seminar today.

The training course Sept. 26 provided a valuable opportunity to acquire skills in IP address management and is aimed at technical personnel who have responsibility for managing network facilities. This course, which is sponsored by Meridian Telekoms, is for staff of Apnic member organizations only.

The half-day seminar today is open to all and provides an introduction to the functions of Apnic and its role in the Asia Pacific Internet community. The seminar will cover issues of IP address policy, database management, Apnic membership requirements, and policy development within the region.

To allow Internet users in the Philippines to connect to the global Internet, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) operate complex networks of servers and routers, which communicate using the TCP/IP protocol. These networks must have access to IP addresses, the numbers that identify network equipment to the Internet and allow data to be routed around the globe.

"The Apnic training emphasizes the skills that network operators need to request IP addresses from Apnic," said Apnic's training development consultant Nurani Nimpuno.

"Trainees will receive detailed instruction in the procedures involved in obtaining IP addresses and related resources from Apnic, and in preparing their network plans," Nimpuno said.

Apnic is one of three regional Internet registries in the world responsible for managing the public IP address pool, and for providing resource allocation and registration services to the Asia Pacific Internet community.

Further details about the registration procedures or information about training seminar can be obtained from Apnic's website at www.apnic.net or e-mail training@apnic.net.

GMA AT SAISAKI MEGAMALL

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, together with Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas and Unilab Philippines and SM Group of Companies officers, was welcomed by Triple V president Victor V. Villavicencio at the lunch reception of the Ritemed Philippines project launch held at SM Megamall. Ritemed is a joint venture of Unilab, Watsons Drugstore and SM Shopping Mall chain.

ERGO @ CEU

Ergonomic Systems Philippines, the leading office system in the country. provided the chairs of the new CEU Information Science Center, launched June 30. Shown at the launching are (from left) Melanie Tagle, AVP for sales, Ergo, Dr. Maria L. Ayuyao, CEU executive vice president, Romulo Ney, manager, Metro Bank, Dr. Rosita L. Navarro, president, CEU, Carmita M. Suiza, grounds and buildings head, CEU, and Virgie Monton, vice president for sales and marketing, Ergo.

College education secured at BDO

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank, the financial services flagship of the SM Group of Companies, recently tied-up with insurance company giant Generali Pilipinas Life Assurance Company, a partnership among Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A. and Jerneh Asia Berhad of the Kuok Group of Companies, to help secure youth's college education future through the new "College Secure".

Italy's largest insurer, Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A. is backed by 170 years of experience in risk management and with assets of over $204 billion. Generali is present in more than 50 countries on all 6 continents around the globe. Jernah Asia Berhad is an investment holding company belonging to one of Asia's most diversified conglomerates--the Kuok Group of Companies. Banco de Oro Universal Bank (BDO), with total resources of more than P100 billion as of September 2002 has become a formidable universal bank, building on its exceptional strength in the consumer and middle-income markets.

College Secure is one of the most affordable college insurance plans in the country with monthly premiums as low as P908 only. Benefits from this plan include annual allowances, emergency funds, graduation gifts as well as cash incentives for students graduating with honors.

College Secure is an insurance product and not a preneed. As an insurance product, College Secure is under the strict regulation of the Office of the Insurance Commission (OIC). The owner of the College Secure plan is automatically covered under a life insurance policy and as such, the education of the child-beneficiary is assured in case of untimely death or permanent disability of the plan owner. When this unfortunate event occurs, the child-beneficiary will also be entitled to up to P50,000 in annual allowances starting immediately until he or she turns 16 years old. Also, the plan accumulates cash values which can be used by the plan owner in cases of emergencies. Cash values can be used for taking out emergency loans or as a surrender value just in case the plan owner is no longer able to continue paying for the plan. In this case, the premiums paid will not go to waste.

To know more about how to secure your child's college education through "College Secure," call Banco de Oro Insurance Brokers Inc. at 635-2785, 638-7135, 636-6060 local 352, 437, 448 or visit a Banco de Oro branch near you.

LYDIA'S LECHON
Lydia's Lechon

NFHFI NATIONAL CONVENTION KICKOFF

National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. (NFHFI) national chair Nemesio G. Co (third from left) is shown doing the ceremonial hacking of the lechon during the opening ceremonies of the 11th NFHFI National Convention and Exhibit held recently at the SM Megatrade Hall. Assisting him is Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez (second from left). Also shown are vice chair Albert RT Lim Jr. (left), USDA agricultural counselor Charles Alexander (back, partly hidden), Lydia de Roca and Iloilo Hog Farmers Association president Victorio S. Lo.

BITS Clips

Haribon Foundation goes bird watching

THE HARIBON Foundation pays tribute to the magnificence of birds and lets other people witness their beauty and grandeur as Haribon embarks on a bird-watching activity at the forests of Subic Bay from Sept. 27 to 28. The Haribon Foundation regularly organizes bird-watching trips for its members to various areas like Subic Bay, Mt. Makiling in Laguna and the Candaba Swamp in Pampanga. With about 600 species of birds recorded in the Philippines, 200 or so are endemic to the country. Through this latest bird watching activity, the Haribon Foundation hopes that bird watching as a hobby will grow in popularity here in the Philippines. For details on how to join Haribon's bird-watching activity, call Lala Bautista or Grace Novilla at 920-7430.

Fine finds from My Home

NOW on its 2nd year, My Home magazine has featured countless furniture and decors on its glossy pages. On Sept. 27, My Home holds the 2nd year of "Finds", a furnishing and décor fair at the Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center, Makati. This year, among the great buys include prime pieces from exhibitors like JB Woodcraft, Modern Naturals, Azcor Lighting, Boogi Lights, Modern Design, Patina, Cancio, Union Square, Cornerstone and Mano Mano. My Home magazine's Finds Furnishing and Decors Fair is sponsored by Dai-ichi Speakers, the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, Ayala Center and Enterprise. The second "Finds" fair will be held Nov. 27 to 29 at the 3rd level, Tower 2 lobby of the Enterprise Center in Ayala Avenue. My Home is published by Mega Magazines & Publications Inc in partnership with Earth + Style Corp.

Model employees honored in UE anniversary

THE 2002 service awardees and model employees of the University of the East will be honored at the awards ceremony on Sept. 27 at the conference hall in UE Manila as a highlight of the 3-day observance of UE's 56th foundation anniversary from Sept. 26 to 28. Also to be honored are the year's most outstanding teacher, model management employee and model rank-and-file employee. The University convocation is on Sept. 27 at UE Caloocan with Sen. Loren Legarda as the guest speaker. There will also be an art exhibit of works by award-winning students and faculty members of the UE College of Fine Arts, a special presentation by the UE dance troupe and the annual alumni homecoming.

2nd Aduana Awards set

THE 2ND Aduana Awards, spearheaded by the Chamber of Customs Brokers Inc. (CCBI), will be held on Sept. 27 at the Century Park Sheraton in Manila. Supported by Pilipinas Shell, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Epson and Asian Terminals Inc., the awards recognizes individuals and institutions instrumental in advancing worthy causes and inspiring excellence in the Aduana community, according to CCBI president lawyer Leonides I. David. The community covers the area of trading, customs administration, port development, customs brokerage, shipping, freight forwarding, trucking and haulage, warehouse operations and logistics management. Interested parties can call the Aduana Awards secretariat at 551-1775, 551-3871 or 834-2416, fax 551-3207.

NREA celebrates 11th anniversary

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association celebrates its 11th founding anniversary on Sept. 27 with an Honor Dinner starting at 6 p.m. at Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, as announced by Mar B. Bacani, NREA PRO and spokesman. Invited as guest of honor during the Honor Dinner is Sec. Mike Defensor, HUDCC chair, who is an honorary member of NREA. The anniversary fete ushers in NREA's activities in celebration of October as the Housing Month and also serves as the highlight of its 7th National Conference and Exhibits, held in the morning of Sept. 27, focused on the theme "Urban Development Well Into the 21st Century". The dinner will also honor the prime movers in the Conference.

Kiwanis Club of Cainta anniversary

THE KIWANIS Club of Cainta Greenpark (Key No. 11474) holds its induction of new officers and members coinciding with its 17th anniversary celebration on Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Riverbend Hotel and Convention Center, Marikina City. Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani "BF" Fernando, has been invited to be this year's guest speaker. The newly elected officers for 2002-2003 are Ruben Aque, president; Jun Sambalilo, 1st vice president; Bobet Alip, 2nd vice president; Boy Enriquez, secretary; Tony Vidal, assistant secretary; Nanding Malvar, treasurer; Luz Daso, assistant treasurer; Reggie Manalo, auditor; Mar Beltran, Rose Daso and Rolly Morta, PROs. The board of directors is composed of Jun Figuracion, Marvin Angeles, Efren Villarosa, Rey Lipana, Rey Torrecampo and Rannie Matias.

Product FILES

Paper One triple bonus

PAPERONE, a prestigious range of premium quality paper designed for the most demanding office printing and copying task, has launched a raffle promotion in cooperation with National Book Store and Veco.

This raffle promo entitled "PaperOne and National Bookstore Triple Bonus Draw" will be giving away fabulous prices such as Digital Camcorder, Digital Camera, Palm Pilots and Nokia cellular phones.

Joining PaperOne promo is fun and easy. Just buy one ream of PaperOne All-Purpose Premium Paper or PaperOne Copier Paper at any National Book Store branch and be entitled to one raffle coupon to be claimed from the customer service counter once the official receipt is presented. The more purchase of PaperOne reams, the more chances of winning.

PaperOne covers three drawing periods for this year: on Oct. 12, Nov. 9 and Dec. 22. For the October draw; the period covers Aug. 15 to Sept. 30, Oct. 1 to Oct. 31 for the November draw and Nov. 1 to Dec. 15 for the December draw. All non-winning entries will still have a chance to be included on the succeeding draws or until Dec. 15. For more details, just visit the customer service counter of any of the National Book Store branches.

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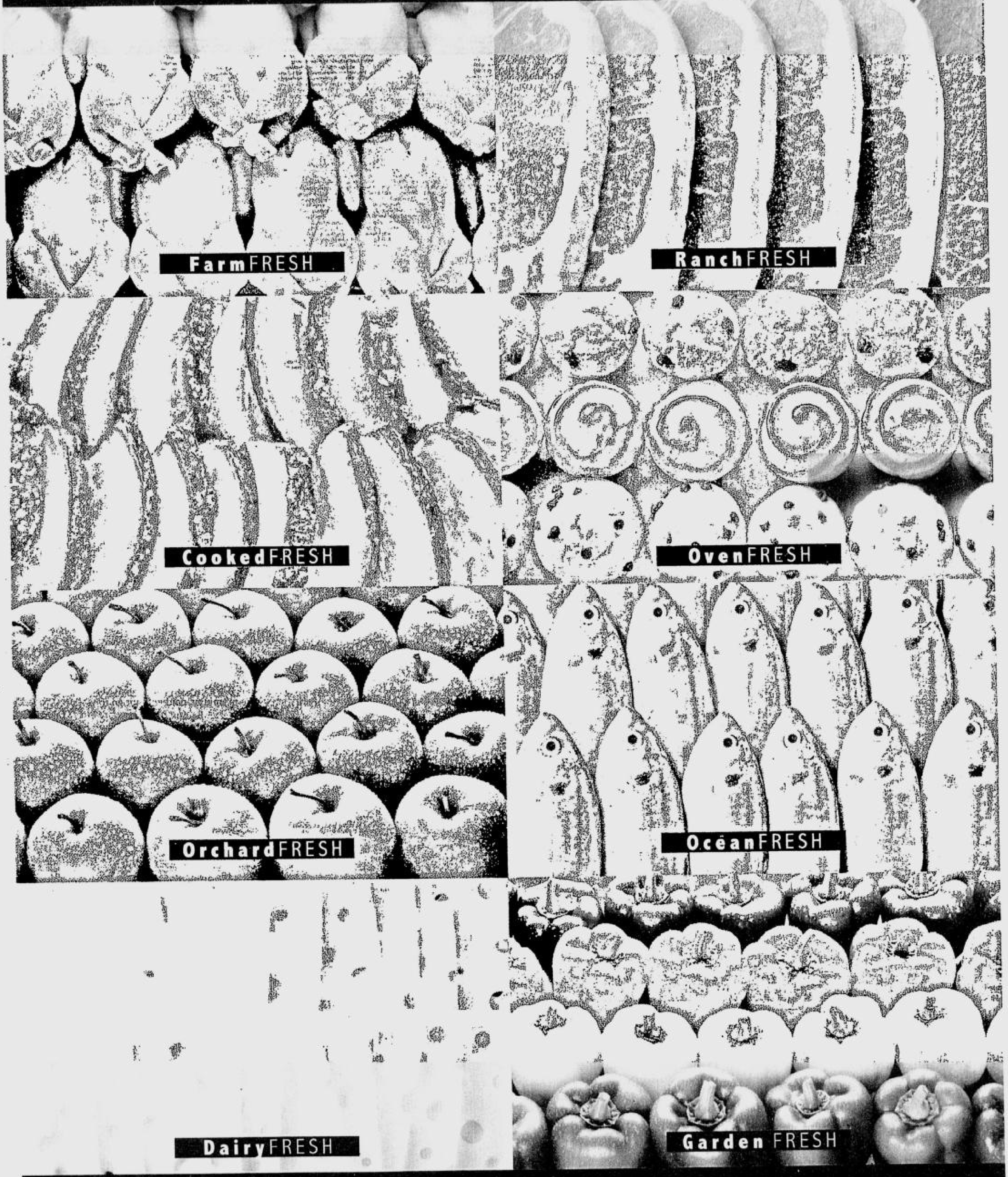
What's FRESH?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Convenience is truly a hallmark of these residences because a soon-to-be redeveloped Robinsons Mall will be right next to it, complete with cinemas and a host of shops, boutiques and restaurants.

As well, residents of One Gateway Place have access to the proposed Amenities Center -- with its swimming pools, gym, spa, multi-purpose court, coffee shop and function room - it's definitely a recreation center that offers you a lifestyle of the highest quality.

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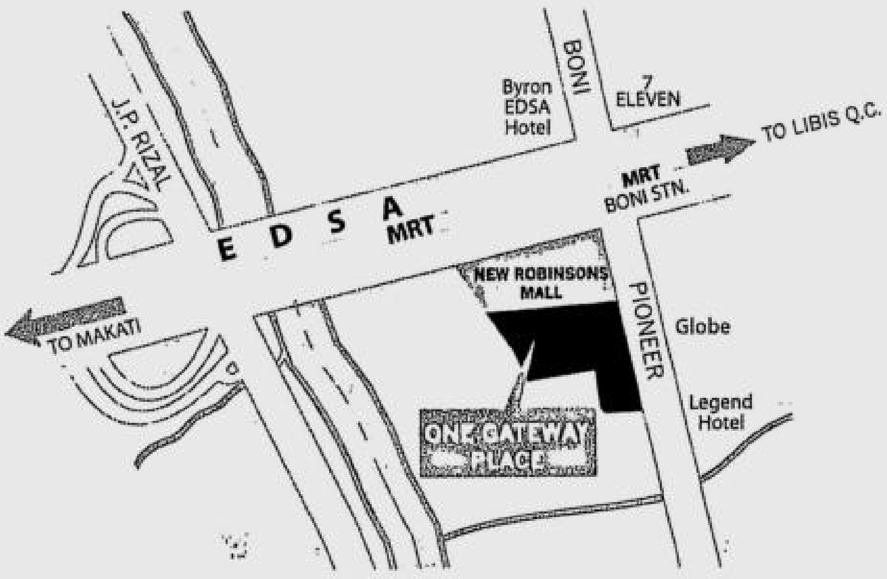

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Trend Spotting

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

A DAY AT THE RACES? No, it's just GMA trying on a native *buntal* hat.

Unsolicited advice to GMA on style

LIFE-STYLE

Thelma Sioson San Juan

SEEING the President's photo-ops on the front page from day to day makes you feel like you're traipsing the Philippine map, from coast to coast, costume to costume (all the way to Hollywood). Like Sibika and Fashion TV in simulcast. It adds a kick to your morning coffee, a true waker-upper with, if you read opinion columns, a big thumbs-down.

Her packaging-for-the-*masa* approach makes the *teleserye* pale in comparison, complete with a cliffhanger, in the sense that you're dying to see what type of corpse she will be posing with the next day. The style range and imagination of her image designers far surpasses that of any glossy's fashion stylists, with "accessories" ranging from faux crown to flesh-and-(dried)-blood corpse.

Don't get us wrong; we get the message/image her spin masters are trying to convey (you have to be extra-dense not to). On the one hand, they want to show that she's in control, that she has power especially over the lawless elements. On the other hand, they want to show that she has that down-home appeal, that human reach to the masses, that

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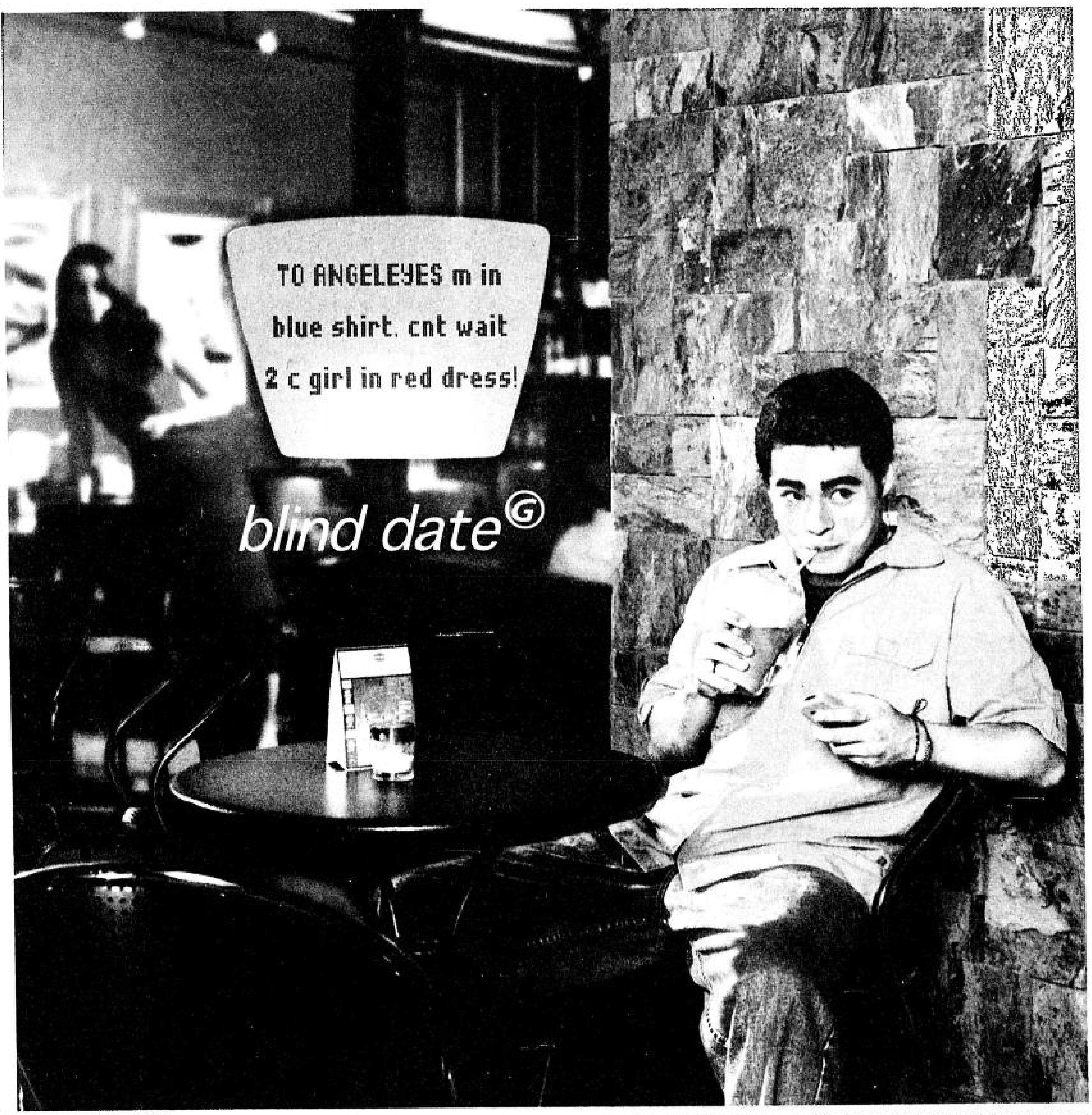

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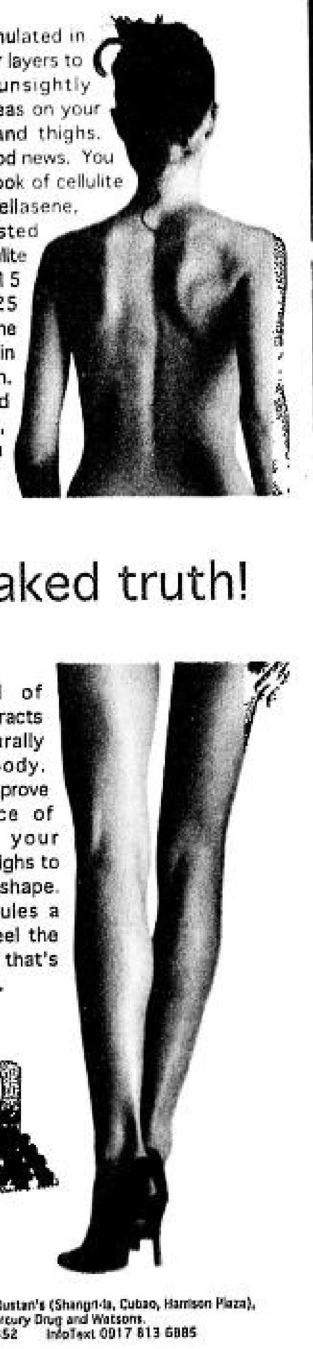
Globe HANDYPHONE



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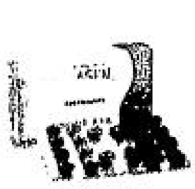
The naked truth!



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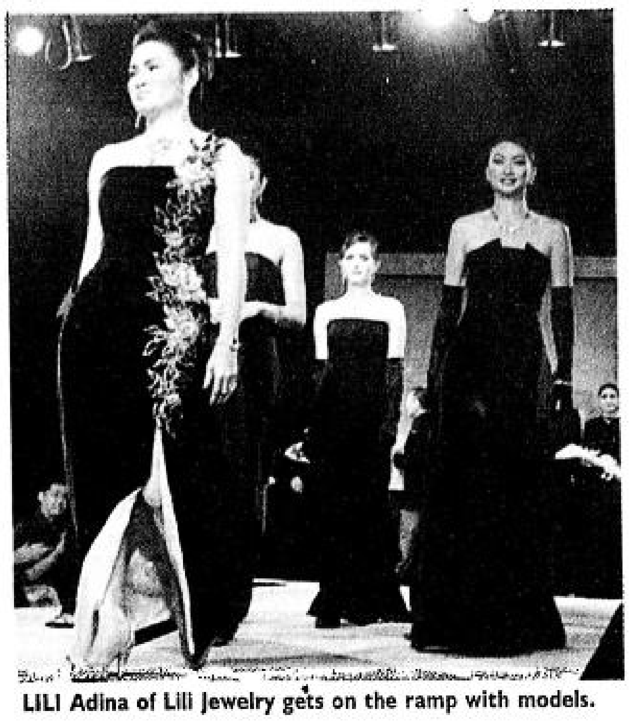
ALL in Dino Lloren gowns; Lhuillier jewelry for Sara Jane Paez-Santiago, Lili jewelry for Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Lhuillier jewelry for Suyen Chi-Sia.

DESIGNER Arcy Gayatin and her gowns on models Gem Padilla and Queenie Malingin-Ammann, both wearing Lhuillier jewelry



LILI Adina of Lili Jewelry gets on the ramp with models.

Hungry and hyphenated in the Queen City

By Gem Padilla
Contributor

"PUBLICITY-HUNGRY model strikes again" was the topic of our conversation over dinner after our spectacular fashion show at the Waterfront Cebu Hotel and Casino.

The show was part of the 2002 Cebu Art Festival, a three-day event that showcased the best of Philippine contemporary visual art, as well as the finest jewelry by M. Lhuillier Jewellers and Lili Jewelry. Proceeds were donated to the Cultural and Historical Affairs Commission for the renovation of the Cebu City Gallery and Museum.

The fashion show featured Cebu's hottest designers—Philip Rodriguez, Jun-jun Escario, Dino Lloren and of course, Arcy Gayatin, whose very elegant but almost see-through creation I modeled during the show. The fabulous gowns were complemented by Lili Adina and Amparito Lhuillier's astounding private jewelry collection. The gems were huge and awesome.

Art maestros Tito Quevas, Professor Tamayo, Rudy Maniero and Paulina Constancia provided the rich visual backdrop. Guests were awed by the artwork, which truly added drama to the show. Cebu's vibrant dance troupe and the magical voice of Rochelle Gerodias satisfied the taste for cultural sustenance.

"Fusion of Art," an art show celebrating the union of five art forms, was conceptualized, choreographed and directed by Jackie C. Aquino. Marco Protatcio, director for food and beverage of Waterfront, was the head of the management team that made the event possible.

The show was brought to life by some of the finest and most beautiful women of the country: Lucy Torres-Gomez, Tweety de Leon-Gonzales, Sara Jane Paez-Santiago, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Suyen Chi-Sia, Desiree Verdadero-Abesamis, Joanna Maitland-Smith Lhuillier, Queenie Malingin-Ammann, Michelle del Rosario and Marina Pura Benipayo.

Notice that almost all names are hyphenated. As part of the show, the names of the models flashed onto the screen set up on stage, giving the audience the feeling that they were watching a film.

Prior to the show, the director had asked all of us if we preferred our names appear as hyphenated or not—as most of the models are married—like it would make a difference to me (although I really wanted mine to be Gem Padilla-Norton, as in Mrs. Edward Norton. I wish!).

However stupendous the show was, we were all tired to our bones and hungry. How typical of us models not to eat before the show, as if one meal would make a drastic change in our sizes.

The scrumptious dinner was served at Tin Gow Chinese restaurant in Waterfront. With us during dinner was Maurice Arcache, whom we asked regarding the blind item he recently wrote about models and designers. One particular item that had us all puzzled was about the publicity-hungry model whom a politician turned down for a photo opportunity. The columnist remained mum while the rest of us bombarded him with questions on the identity of the model. You could almost hear the "Jeopardy" jingle being played.

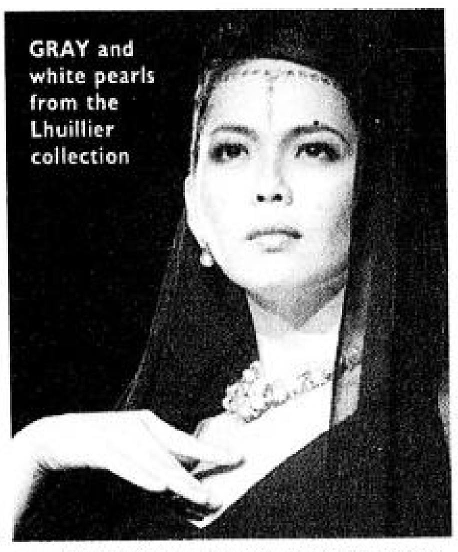
Nothing was divulged. We were left hanging and cringing in our seats. The night ended with our stomachs full but our curiosity unsatisfied.

The discussion amongst us did not stop as we retreated to our rooms, until one of us suggested to let it go because, who knows, another blind item might come out: "The *chismis*-hungry, semi-retired models strike again."

The Cebu Art Festival brought together the best of fashion, art and jewelry on one merry catwalk

LUCY Torres-Gomez dons a Philip Rodriguez and rubies by Lili.

AMPARITO Lhuillier takes centerstage.



GRAY and white pearls from the Lhuillier collection

ANNETTE Coronel-Cruz in a Jun-jun Escario; jewelry from Lhuillier, Seascape by Rudy Maniero in the background

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Meet your favorite Sesame Street resident

GOINGS-ON

MEET and greet your favorite characters from Sesame Street: Elmo, Cookie Monster and the Count at SM North Edsa on Oct. 4; SM-Centerpoint on Oct. 5; SM Harrison, Makati and Cubao on Oct. 6; SM Southmall on Oct. 10 and 29; SM City Bacoor on Oct. 11; SM City Fairview on Oct. 12 and 30; SM City Davao on Oct. 20; SM City Manila on Oct. 25; SM City Pampanga on Oct. 26; and SM Megamall on Oct. 27 and 31. The Sesame Street characters will be at the malls from 2-4:30 pm. Kids can join the Sesame Street Drawing and Coloring Activity 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at SM City Cebu/Iloilo/Davao, Oct. 1-3; SM City North Edsa/Fairview, Oct. 7-10; SM Centerpoint, Oct. 11-13; SM Megamall/Manila, Oct. 14-17; SM Supercenter Sucat/Pampanga, Oct. 18-20; and at SM Southmall/Bacoor, Oct. 21-24. For every P300 purchase of Sesame Street items, customers can get a free headgear featuring the Count, Cookie and Elmo. The promo runs for the whole month of October in all SM department stores.

COMPETITION. The Araneta Group of Companies hosts the Division Championships of Makati City and Quezon City in the 23rd National Super Quiz Bee NCR eliminations 1:30-5:30 p.m., Oct. 5, at the Atrium All Mall in Cubao, Quezon City. The National Super Quiz Bee is an academic competition. Grand Finals will be on Dec. 7. Call 712-0682.

WORKSHOP. Nicanor Perlas, lecturer, writer and recipient of the United Nations Global 500 and TOFIL Awards, is the resource person for the seminar-workshop on "From Vision to Action: The Philosophy of Freedom" sponsored by the Anthroposophical Society in the Philippines. This workshop is set for Oct. 5-6 at Bahay Ugnayan, Quezon City. Call 362-1692, 412-0244, 373-4807 or (0917) 484-3495.

RECOLLECTION. Alumnae of St. Theresa's College Manila are invited to the annual recollection 8 a.m.- 6 p.m., Oct. 5 at the Makati Sports Club, Alfaro St., Makati. This year's theme is "Family Paradigms Meeting the Challenges and Opportunities for Family Renewal." Recollection director is Fr. Edgar Eboña, institutional and high school chaplain of La Salle Greenhills. Call 740-1810, 824-7350, 724-2412, 372-0601 or 892-9980.

LECTURE. Amy Cavosora is conducting a lecture dubbed "Indigo" based on the psycho-spiritual teachings in "A Course in Miracles" and the principles of color therapy and Enneagram. Registration and screening begins Oct. 9. Call 925-2795, (0917) 608-9625.

SEMINAR. Two veteran journalists/educators will conduct a seminar on "Creative Writing Made Easy!" To be held 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. at 7 Brooklyn Street, Cubao (near Immaculate Concepcion Church and New York Street, New Manila side), the seminar will be divided into two modules. On Oct. 5, the topic is "Unlocking the Creative You: Tools and Techniques to Enhance Your Writing" and Oct. 26, "Expanded Techniques in Creativity." Call 721-7976, 850-8603 or 0917-8325536, (0919) 242-0238.

COMPETITION. The Intramuros Administration (IA) and the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF) are exhibiting entries to the Intramuros On-the-Spot Photo Competition for College Students, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., until Oct. 13, at the Baluarte de Sta. Barbara powder magazine, Fort Santiago, Intramuros.

MEETING. The Andanians (Pangasinan) Association Inc. (AAI), an organization of natives of Anda, Pangasinan residing in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, will meet on Oct. 5 at 13 Pittsburg St., Quezon City. Call 912-0511, 913-2373, 417-2991, 527-8421, (046) 571-0001, 0917-2426496 and 807-3950.

HOMECOMING. The Good Shepherd Convent in Baguio City is inviting former students of the Pelletier Hills School and the Mountain Maid Training Center, the academic and livelihood programs of the convent, to attend the alumnae homecoming on Nov. 10, at the Good Shepherd Convent. Call (074) 442-3865.

Salon gives communication lessons to staff

TISHA Bautista (center) with the staff of Franck Provost Hair Salon

FRANCK Provost Hair Salon, recognizing that its work is very service-oriented, is giving its staff lessons in personality development and communication.

Teaching the staff how to communicate well is eight-month pregnant Tisha Bautista, owner of the salon. She stresses the importance of communication skills, saying the salon business is image-building. Adding that many clients were foreigners, she says that the staff has to be able to talk to them in English.

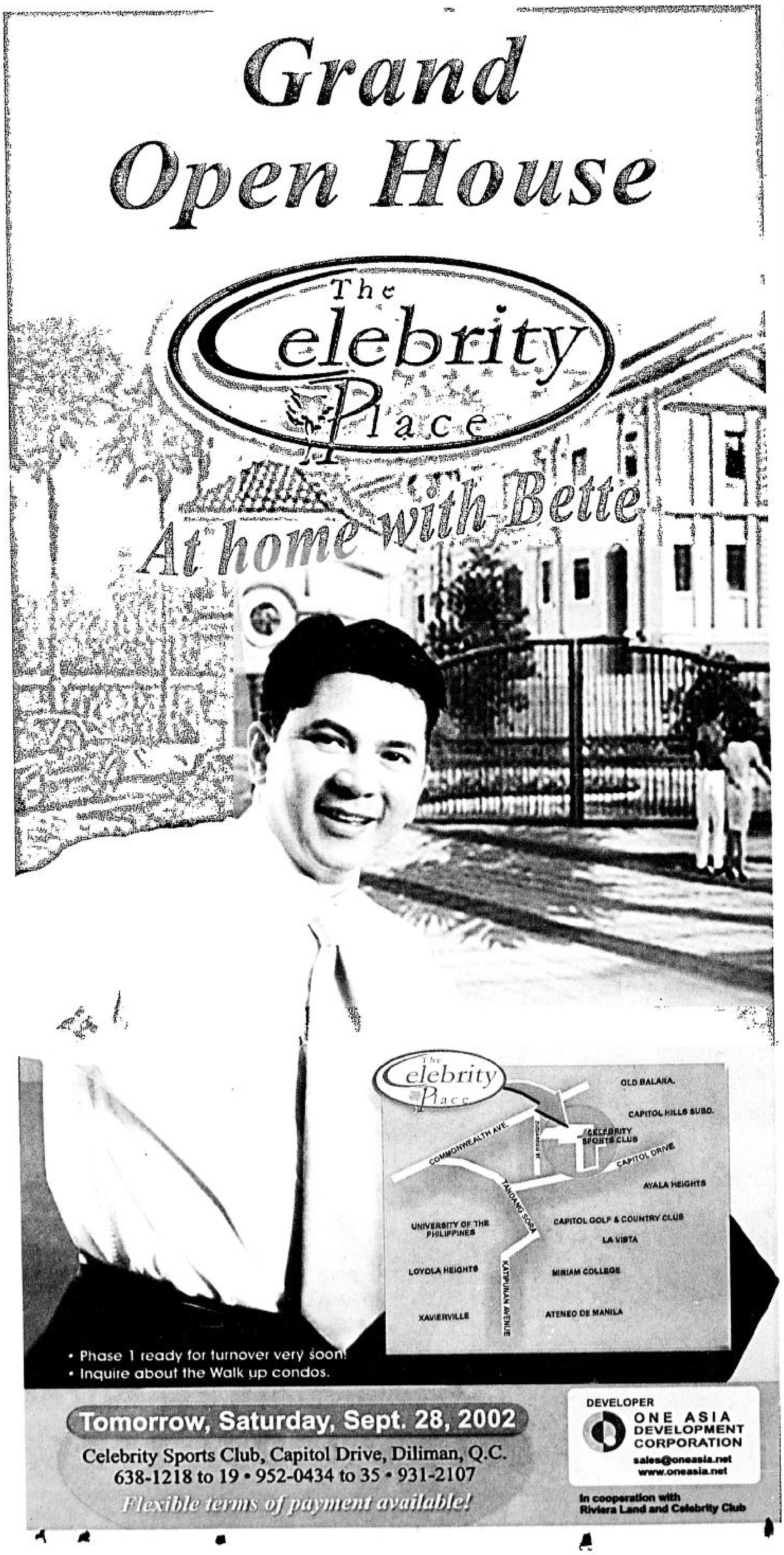
Bautista believes better communication skills would make her staff work better.

Classes are held three times a week, with each session lasting three hours. A course takes three to four months to complete.

Bautista says the biggest challenge is keeping the lessons interesting.

Included in the lessons are facts about the salon itself, like its history, prices and services offered. Bautista has also included lessons on good grooming.

To motivate students, awards are also given to best achievers. One awardee is Joyce Pangga, receptionist from Los Baños, Laguna, who has been with Franck Provost for only a year, although she has been in the salon business for all eight years starting as a receptionist at Rodger Craig in the Hong Kong Peninsula.



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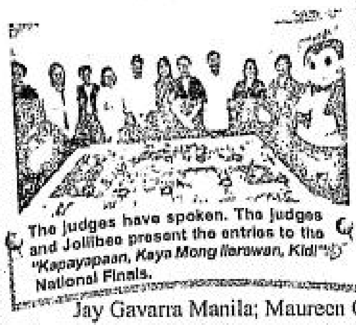
Jollibee Journal

KAPAYAPAAN, KANILANG INILARAWAN SA JOLLIBEE

Jollibee recently named the 30 finalists for the National Finals of the *"Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!"* painting contest. They will compete in the On-the-Spot painting contest during the National Finals on October 11, 2002.


The judges have spoken. The judges and Jollibee present the entries to the *"Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!"* National Finals.

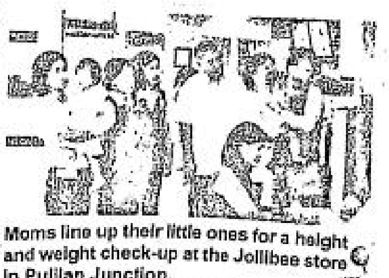
Finalists for the oil-based medium are: Joshel Aimee Marie M. Anchores, Manila; Deanthony B. Opaco, Manila; Jay Gavarra Manila; Maureen Gayle del Prado-Bohol, Baguio; Isabel Jeanne A. Ragadi, Laoag; Eduardo Castro Jr., Bulacan; Ian Goselle A. Narciso, Bulacan; Sheryl F. Pautan, Bulacan; Mary Denn G. Obligado, Cavite; Joana Melissa C. Pintoy, Cavite; Mark Collin Solas, Iloilo City; Jay Marc Garcia, Cebu; Val Vincent N. Vergara, Cebu; Karen Leigh T. Maghanoy, Zamboanga City; and Jayson James F. Munoz, Zamboanga City.

Finalists for the water-based medium are: Jerus Christian M. De Silva, Manila; Aldo A. Goncero Jr., Manila; Manuel K. Seguis Manila; Moranda S. Black, Baguio; Romeo Christo E. Rosete IV, Baguio; Mark Lester P. Baluyot, Pangasinan; Merry Joyce P. Bautista, Rizal; Carmina Q. de Vera, Cavite; Ma. Mafer M. Madero, Guimaras; Jireh Alaban, Roxas City; Nicolas V. Cajeme, Samar; Dave Mark S. Celum, Samar; Azan Ken M. Mato, Pagadian; Jean Christine E. Cadano, Basilan; and Nicollete Leigh L. Gomez, Iligan City.

The *"Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!"* painting contest is also brought to you by Goodwill Bookstore, *Ang Illustrador ng Kabataan (INK)*, PET Plans and Cebu Pacific, the official carrier.

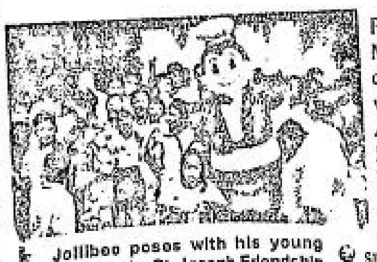
WATCH YOUR WEIGHT, WIN A PRIZE AT JOLLIBEE

In celebration of Nutrition Month, the Jollibee store in Pulilan Junction recently launched the *Check your Height and Weight and Get a Prize*, a health program supported by its Municipal Government that encourages parents to check their children's height and weight regularly and aimed to create awareness about proper nutrition in the hopes of eradicating malnutrition.


Moms line up their little ones for a height and weight check-up at the Jollibee store in Pulilan Junction.

The weeklong program became a hit among families who trooped to the Jollibee store to have their kid's height and weight checked. A monitoring card was issued to each child to help them keep track of their body measurements. Those who met their ideal body weight were given free Jollibee novelty items. Others who have yet to reach their ideal weight can look forward to next year's height and weight check-ups to receive their free gift from Jollibee. So till then, *bee healthy!*

A JOLLY SPECIAL TREAT FOR SPECIAL KIDS


Jollibee poses with his young wards at the St. Joseph Friendship Homes in Makati.

Jollibee Powerplant Mall, in cooperation with the San Antonio Parish in Forbes Park, Makati treated over 100 special children to a day of fun and surprises.

Held at the St. Joseph Friendship Homes at West Rembo, Makati, the kids played parlor games, sang and danced with Jollibee and indulged in their favorite jolly meals. Aside from their special toys from Jollibee, the kids all took home great happy memories of that one special *bee happy* day.

TAYO NA SA JOLLIBEE QUEZON AVENUE-ARANETA!

Expect more *bee happy* service and delight at the newly renovated Jollibee store along Quezon Avenue corner Araneta.

Jollibee welcomes guests at the re-opening of Jollibee Quezon Avenue-Araneta.

Guests at the store's re-opening included Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, Congressman Willie Villarama of Bulacan, and Congresswoman Maite Defensor of Quezon City.

The store also serves breakfast and delivers everyone's favorite Langhap-Sarap meals right at their doorstep through the Express Delivery Service.

So when in Quezon City, drop by the all-new Jollibee store in Quezon Avenue, Araneta. See you there!

For feedback, comments, or suggestions, please write to
Jollibee Journal
c/o The Marketing Division,
Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas
Center, Pasig City, Philippines
journal@jollibee.com.ph

bee happy
Langhap-Sarap sa Jollibee

MAMA SITA'S
Labuyo Chili Sauce
60 ml
TLC PRICE
P49.50 ea.
Reg. Price 54.50

PUREHEALTH
Canola Oil
2 Liters
TLC PRICE
P150.25 ea.
Reg. Price 160.95

MARCA LEON
Corn Oil
1.6 kg
TLC PRICE
P125.00 ea.
Reg. Price 127.50

MANG TOMAS
All Around Sarsa
• Regular
300 g
TLC PRICE
P15.25 ea.
Reg. Price 15.75

KNORR
Tamarind Soup Base Mix
40 g
TLC PRICE
P11.00 ea.
Reg. Price 11.50

KNORR
Broth Cubes
• On Selected variants
Party Pack 66 g.
TLC PRICE
P18.50 ea.

MASTER
Sardines
• in Tomato Sauce
• Hot
• Red
155 g
TLC PRICE
P7.60 ea.

CENTURY
Tuna Flakes
• On Selected Variants
155 g / 5s
TLC PRICE
P76.50 ea.

ARGENTINA
Fiesta Sausage
80 g
TLC PRICE
P10.75 ea.
Reg. Price 10.95

ARGENTINA
Corned Beef
175 g
TLC PRICE
P22.55 ea.

PUREFOODS
Chinese Luncheon Meat
165 g
TLC PRICE
P16.00 ea.
Reg. Price 17.00

FLORENCE
Nata de Coco
340 g (12 oz.)
TLC PRICE
P21.00 ea.
Reg. Price 24.75

DEL MONTE
Fiesta Fruit Cocktail
• 2102T
850 g
TLC PRICE
P45.75 ea.
Reg. Price 46.30

LEMON SQUARE
Dream Cake
• Custard
• Strawberry
• Mango
• Chocolate
6's
TLC PRICE
P25.00 ea.
Reg. Price 27.75

WHITE KING
Fiesta Spaghetti
1 kg
TLC PRICE
P32.00 ea.

QUAKER
Instant Oatmeal
800 g
TLC PRICE
P85.50 ea.
Reg. Price 90.00

LADY'S CHOICE
Sandwich Spread
• Chicken
• Ham
220 mL
TLC PRICE
P43.75 ea.

EQUAL
Natural Sweetener
50's
TLC PRICE
P124.75 box
Reg. Price 131.25

GREAT TASTE
Premium Blend Coffee
100 g
TLC PRICE
P34.50 ea.
Reg. Price 36.25

QUEEN
Unsweetened Gulaman
• Green
• Clear
10 g
TLC PRICE
P15.00 ea.
Reg. Price 16.00

PILLSBURY
Toaster Buns
• Bacon
• Chocolate
• Honey Chips
200 g
TLC PRICE
P34.50 ea.
Reg. Price 37.50

TLC Total

PURE DELIGHT
Chicken Hotdog
• Regular Red
1 kg
TLC PRICE
P90.00 ea.
Reg. Price 99.00

KRAFT
Eden Filled Cheese
200 g
TLC PRICE
P22.25 ea.
Reg. Price 25.00

PILLSBURY
Hotcake Mix
500 g
TLC PRICE
P33.50 ea.
Reg. Price 34.50

ARNOTT'S
Good Time Cookies
• Chocochip
200 g
TLC PRICE
P32.50 ea.
Reg. Price 34.50

KEEBLER
Droxies Cookies
• Chocolate
15 oz
TLC PRICE
P88.00 ea.
Reg. Price 92.50

YUM YUM
Choco Snack Biscuits
30 g
TLC PRICE
P6.75 ea.
Reg. Price 7.00

M.Y. SAN
Fita Biscuits
30 g / 10's
TLC PRICE
P21.75 ea.
Reg. Price 22.75

BONAKID
Growing Up Milk
1 kg
TLC PRICE
P269.50 ea.

PUREFOODS
Chick'N Tasty Hotdog
• Regular
1 kg
TLC PRICE
P90.00 ea.
Reg. Price 99.00

ANCHOR
Whipping Cream
250 mL
TLC PRICE
P52.50 ea.
Reg. Price 55.50

DUMEX
3 Plus Growing Up Milk
• With Honey
900 g
TLC PRICE
P260.00 ea.
Reg. Price 271.50

PROGRESS
Gold Growing Up Milk
900 g
TLC PRICE
P399.75 ea.

SUSTAGEN
Premium Milk
• Chocolate
1 kg
TLC PRICE
P479.75 ea.

ANCHOR
Full Cream Milk Powder
2.5 kg
TLC PRICE
P514.00 ea.

ANCHOR
Full Cream Milk Powder
450 g
TLC PRICE
P95.25 ea.

ANCHOR
UHT Fresh Milk
250 mL
TLC PRICE
P13.50 ea.
Reg. Price 14.50

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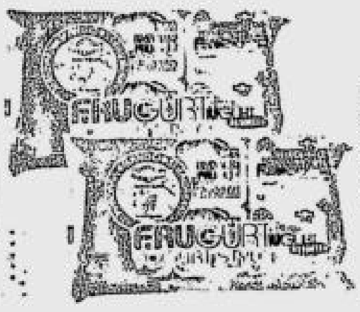
Lower Cost

SWIFT
Sweet 'n Juicy Hotdog
- Cocktail
1 kg
TLC PRICE
P98.00 ea.
Reg. Price 104.00

ALASKA
Evaporated Filled Milk
370 mL
TLC PRICE
P21.25 ea.

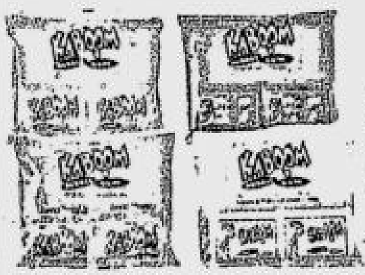


NEW CHOICE
Frugurt Yogurt
- Assorted
210 g
TLC PRICE
P34.75 ea.
Reg. Price 38.75

JO-NA'S
Snappy
- Cheese
160 g
TLC PRICE
P18.50 ea.
Reg. Price 19.50

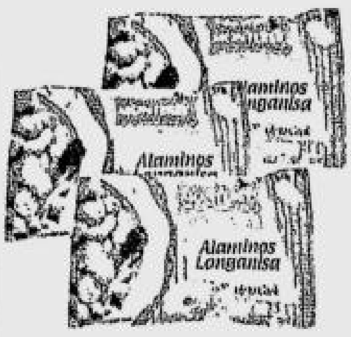
LAY'S
Potato Chips
- Sour Cream & Onion
180 g
TLC PRICE
P66.75 ea.
Reg. Price 69.75

STORCK
Candies
- All Variants
50's
TLC PRICE
P17.75 /bag
Reg. Price 18.75



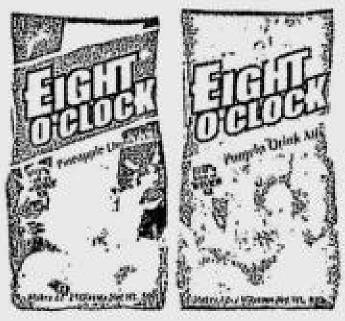
LOTTE
Kaboom Bubble Gum
- All Flavors
150 g/50's
TLC PRICE
P19.50 ea.
Reg. Price 20.50

NESTLÉ
Pure Life Water
500 mL
TLC PRICE
P10.75 /btl.
Reg. Price 11.00



MONTEREY
Alaminos Longanisa
270 g
TLC PRICE
P47.00 ea.
Reg. Price 51.75

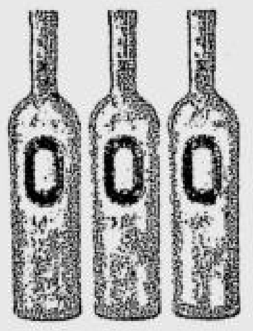
MAGNOLIA
Fruit Juice Drink
- Orange
- Mango
250 mL
TLC PRICE
P9.00 ea.
Reg. Price 9.75



EIGHT O' CLOCK
Powdered Juice Drink
- Pineapple
- Pomelo
500 g
TLC PRICE
P34.50 ea.

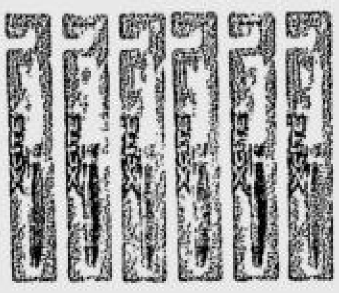
TANG
Ponkan-C Powdered Juice
500 g
TLC PRICE
P35.25 ea.
Reg. Price 37.95

DEL MONTE
Pineapple Juice
1.36 liters (46 oz)
TLC PRICE
P34.50 ea.
Reg. Price 35.25



LUNA DI LUNA
Merlot Cabernet
750 mL
TLC PRICE
P394.50 btl.
Reg. Price 416.50

COLT 45
Beer In Can
330 mL
TLC PRICE
P14.75 /can
Reg. Price 15.75



DENTAL-B
Xcite Toothbrush
- Soft
- Medium
- Hard
TLC PRICE
P65.75 ea.
Reg. Price 73.75

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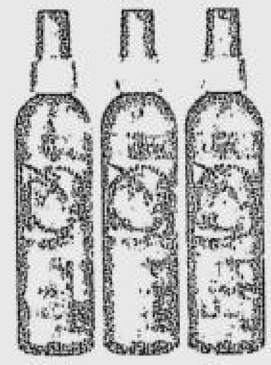
smsupermarket.com

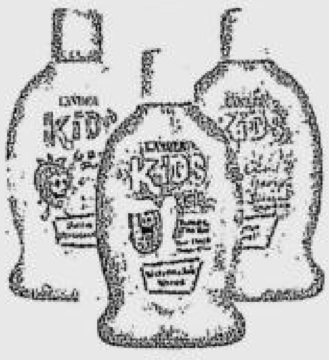
27 TO OCT. 10, 2002

LACALUT
Active Toothpaste
50 mL
TLC PRICE
P72.75 ea.
Reg. Price 82.75

NIVEA
Whitening Facial Foam
50 g
TLC PRICE
P50.00 ea.
Reg. Price 57.75



CALGON
Body Mist
- On Selected Variants
236 mL
TLC PRICE
P244.75 ea.
Reg. Price 258.75



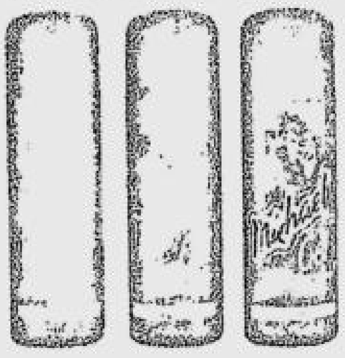
LANDER
2-in-1 Kids Shampoo
- All Variants
325 mL (11 oz)
TLC PRICE
P59.00 ea.
Reg. Price 64.75

SKIN WHITE
Plus Whitening Lotion
100 mL
TLC PRICE
P49.75 ea.
Reg. Price 57.75

VASELINE
Amino Collagen Shampoo
200 mL
TLC PRICE
P70.00 ea.
Reg. Price 71.50

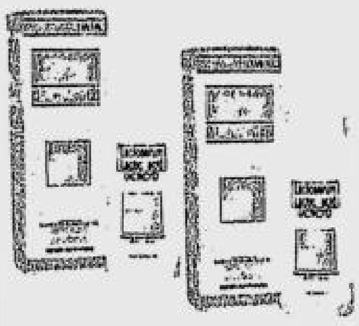
AGREE
Conditioner
- Cucumber Melon
- Plumeria
750 mL
TLC PRICE
P157.00 ea.
Reg. Price 174.75

WELLA
Viva Color Creme With Vitalizer
- #20 Cafe Noir
- #30 Espresso
TLC PRICE
P275.00 ea.
Reg. Price 312.00

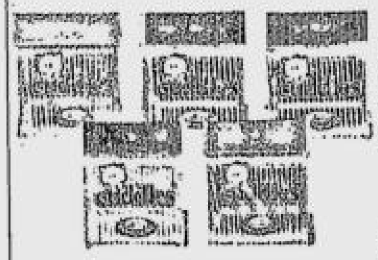


MICHAEL
Hair Gel
- Yellow
- Pink
- White
125 mL
TLC PRICE
P22.50 ea.
Reg. Price 25.75

BETADINE
Skin Cleanser
60 mL
TLC PRICE
P89.75 ea.
Reg. Price 96.75



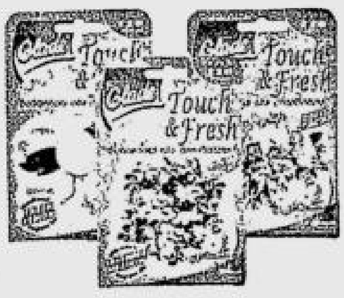
LACTACYD
Feminine Wash
150 mL
TLC PRICE
P104.00 ea.
Reg. Price 109.75



CUDDLES
Cotton Buds
- All Variants
108's
TLC PRICE
P9.75 ea.
Reg. Price 12.75

AXION
Ultra Dishwashing Liquid
- Lemon
- Lime
250 mL
TLC PRICE
P43.75 ea.
Reg. Price 45.75

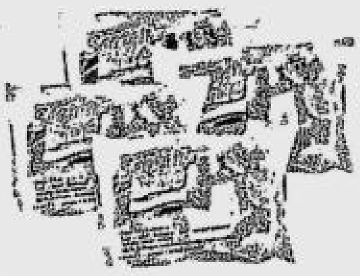
BLU
All Purpose Detergent Powder
- Plain
1 kg
TLC PRICE
P89.50 ea.
Reg. Price 97.50



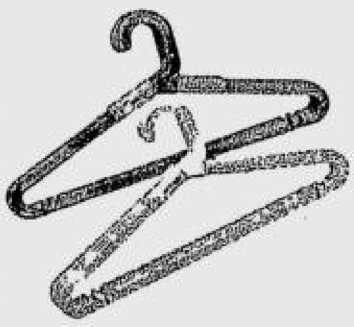
GLADE
Touch & Fresh Bathroom Air Freshener
- On Selected Variants
TLC PRICE
P44.75 ea.
Reg. Price 45.75

BAYGON
Mosquito Coil
10's
TLC PRICE
P10.00 /pk.

REYNOLDS
Zipper Bag
- Medium
25's
TLC PRICE
P78.75 ea.
Reg. Price 85.75



SCOTCH BRITE
Scrub Sponge
- Fun Design
TLC PRICE
P25.50 ea.
Reg. Price 26.75



WINGS
Hanger
- On Selected Colors
5's
TLC PRICE
P44.75 pk.
Reg. Price 49.75

Always there for you!

COOR • SM FAIRVIEW • SM MANILA • SM SAN FERNANDO • SUPERSALE CLUB • SAVE MORE MARIKINA

PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 3920 SERIES OF 2002

Unsolicited advice to GMA on style

The imagination of her spin masters surpasses that of the glossies' stylists, with 'accessories' ranging from crown to corpse

From page D1

SLEEVELESS IN GANGLAND. The President flexes her muscle against criminals, complete with corpses for props.

she's a leader for all seasons and all classes, like a product that cuts across all market segments. In short, that she should be reelected.

The result, however, is not a balance of imperial power and popular appeal, but, sadly, a parody of both. The intended charm and charisma escape us, the intended market.

So what went wrong?

What's right is that there's the gargantuan effort poured into image-making. What's wrong is that you see the effort, as clear as daylight. That is precisely where the image-makers fumble: in designing an image, the effort is not supposed to show. Image-making must always seem effortless, even if mammoth logistics and brainwork have gone into it. Otherwise, it defeats the purpose of image-making; it becomes sheer gimmickry. And gimmickry, because it's crude and thus obvious, defeats the packaging of a nation's leader. In this era of marketing savvy, even the packaging of stars, especially in Hollywood, is already so suave and sophisticated, while it's deliberate. The packaging of our head of state is very crude; others say it's crass.

Perhaps her image/style advisers can go back to the drawing board and get a few tips from how icons—from monarchs, presidents and first ladies to movie stars—were made.

QUEEN GLO? Another argument against shifting the form of government to monarchy

To begin with, no amount of image-designing will work without sincerity. Any image must begin with the character for whom the style is being designed. As Givenchy said, "With style, you must stay as you are."

Take **Jacqueline Kennedy**, the ultimate icon of modern times. She was no president, she was a first lady, yet her imprint on contemporary times proved more encompassing and lasting than that of many US presidents. At 31 she was the youngest first lady, but as it turned out, also most deliberate and definitive about what she wanted her first ladyship to be. Whereas **Hillary Clinton** had to undergo several transformations to get the right formula (she's still at it, by the way), Jackie, from day one at the White House, had it down pat. She wanted the White House to exude the American culture and heritage at a time (in the '60s) the Americans felt so inferior to Europe when it came to culture and class. She wanted Americans to have a sense of pride in their heritage and culture, this even while she used, in near-secrecy, Parisian haute couture expertise to repackage her US-made wardrobe.

Contrary to popular notion, Jackie's reworking of this mindset didn't end at fashion. It extended to her knowledge of and commitment to the arts, from architecture to music, even interior design and languages, down to fine entertaining. She restored the White House, giving it the fixtures of old American interior arts, at a time Americans thought only period European furniture would do. She introduced the performances of American artists at state dinners.

She imprinted her taste (no doubt, enhanced by select advisers) on everything, from the choice of fresh flowers to create the White House ambiance, to the selection of cutlery and china for White House entertaining. No wonder, at the Kennedy Museum in Boston, there are even books on Jackie's White House dinners and interior design.

But, most important, she created the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, a legacy that lives to this day. And long after the Kennedy years, as a New Yorker in her twilight years, she fought to save and rehabilitate the Grand Central Station. Consistent and purposeful even when she was out of power.

All this was feasible not only because she sincerely believed in her culture and arts agenda, but also because she was knowledgeable of it. Her interest was genuine, and her knowledge even more so, both cultivated from childhood. (Of course, that breeding included rather expensive tastes, expensive and exquisite but not vulgar.)

In short, you can fake it only so much.

You know what we like to remember GMA for, style-wise? Her first morning as President, when she led the flag ceremony at Malacañang, in her no-nonsense corporate blazer, plain and casual, but we like to think, that was really her. For after all, she was an academician and a government bureaucrat who had neither the time nor interest in frills.

When she began to have her wardrobe redesigned by **Inno Sotto** into sleek tailored suits, that was also good. You would like your president to have chic, elegant taste, while exuding power and authority.

Recently, however, her image stylists (if she has any) seemed to have pushed her over the brink, not necessarily in her wardrobe but in her entire packaging. They must go back to simplicity with power, strike the credible balance between her simple tastes and a power icon whom the country can respect. She should strike the median between down-to-earth simplicity and aspiration.

Like it or not, style and image are only the expression of character. It begins and ends with character, everything else is frill and accessory.

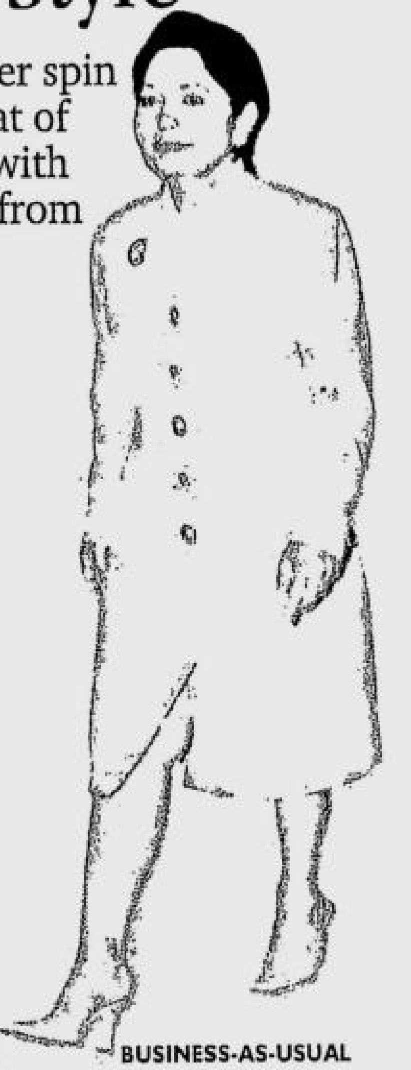
Another one who proves this best is **Margaret Thatcher**, the woman of steel. Just the other week I had lunch with a visiting British representative of Camera Press, the worldwide agency of famous photographers, including **Lord Snowdon**, **Patrick Lichfield** and **Mario Testino** (of **Madonna** and **Princess Diana** fame). This fine Brit had attended many portrait sittings of the era's icons, including Ms Thatcher when she was prime minister.

He recalled, with awe, the moment the Iron Lady walked into the room for her sitting. Her power, he said, instantly filled the room, enough to make the men freeze in attention, "like you were transfixed by a serpent's gaze," and she wielded that trademark bag like she were brandishing a laser sword; you wouldn't want to get in the way. Even off camera, he meant to say, Ms Thatcher was power and strength personified.

In leading her country to the Falklands war, Ms Thatcher didn't have to pose beside the corpse of a soldier to show her strength and to prove to the world that she meant business. GMA can take note of this.

The presidency has intrinsic power, so by being president, GMA is already a cut above the politicians, even while she stays a politician. That's the point: she should rise from the kissing-the-baby *trapo* into a leader, a stateswoman of this era. You need more than costumes to be that.

PANTS LADY. With her police chief, the President attends an anti-crime summit looking mannish and tough.



BUSINESS-AS-USUAL CHIC. The President scores on the the fashion front with her no-nonsense attire.

Presidential power doesn't come cheap (literally and figuratively) so no one should cheapen it. Despite the mire we're in, that office has dignity. Now that is what GMA should wear.

Dignity and integrity (or a semblance of both) are what make power awesome and lasting. Without it, power begins and ends only on the front page, as perishable as newsprint to be used as tomorrow's fish wrapper.

The Office of the President must still have the standards of taste, even if the rest of the country seems to adhere to the standards of show biz. (One must admit, however, that most of the time, the production standards of show biz are much higher than those of politics.) Without these standards, the presidency can't rise above the category of the *teleserye*—today's national craze—which is at the mercy of ratings.

But irony of ironies, the ratings of the *teleserye* are at an all-time high, cutting across all market segments. Sadly, the President's ratings are dipping.

Style is substance. One can't be without the other. An economist and an intelligent woman, the President sure has substance, but how come she ain't got style?

Angel talk

Now this has popular appeal: angel talk. The Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra) holds a free lecture-forum on "Everything you always wanted to know about angels but were too guilty to ask," by angel counselor **Nonoy Ozaeta**, on Oct. 2, 6-8 p.m., at 59 Salvador St., Loyola Heights, QC. (Call 434-5381.)

Charisse Chuidian of Mandarin Oriental Manila has another thing to crow about. After its successful Oriental Spa, Mandarin is opening a yoga studio, with yoga lessons offered regularly.

Our condolence to culinary artist **Gene Gonzalez** and his brother **Toto**. They lost their mom **Pilar**.

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Tita Dulce

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

DEAR Tita Dulce,

On the opening day of the movie "Unfaithful," leaflets were distributed saying 40 percent of married women were unfaithful to their husbands, and 25 percent engaged in extramarital affairs before their seventh wedding anniversary. While those figures applied to Americans, there must also be a significant percentage of Filipino wives unfaithful to their husbands, based on stories I've heard about friends and former classmates, and stories I've read in newspapers about marital quarrels and breakups caused by infidelity (among people) belonging to higher (income groups).

But if there is such a high rate of extramarital affairs, there must be a higher level of mental extramarital affairs. Wives may not be daring enough to have actual affairs for fear of consequences if caught, but they freely fantasize about having sex with other men, which can be kept secret from their husbands. I suspect my wife of many years fantasizes about a former suitor.

He was once featured in your newspaper as a lowly college graduate who became president of his company. When the feature, with his color photo, appeared, my wife told me he courted her when he was a lowly employee, but quit when he saw her family's high standard of living. She has been talking about him since the article appeared. She speaks fondly and often about him that I believe my wife still has feelings for her former suitor and probably fantasizes about him.

One night, when we were about to indulge in marital intimacies, she suggested that we imagined we were going to bed with different partners. "To add spice to our sex life," she muttered. She said that was what many women's magazines recommended to women married for many years. One night, at the height of our most intimate moments, she blurted out her ex-suitor's name.

Can I do anything to stop my wife from thinking of her old flame when we are having sex? It may just be a fantasy for her, but still it makes me very jealous.

ART

On the lighter side, just make sure that whenever her mind strays, she is right there beside you.

But on the more serious side, all Christian married men and women should remember the Sixth Commandment: "Thou shalt not commit adultery," and the Ninth: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife."

Mental extramarital affairs, as you referred to them, are wrong. The power of the mind is what we need to succeed in what we do. That power, if used wrongly, can create evil in the mind and the heart. And, by the way, the Ninth Commandment is not addressed to just one gender. It should apply to all. The Seventh Commandment states: "Thou shalt not steal" while the Tenth, though stated more mildly, is just as serious: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods." In other words, it is wrong even just to be think about stealing something, and definitely wrong to steal.

Since adults are reading this, they can think seriously about this. I hope your wife and other wives will get to read this, as well as husbands in the same plight. One can learn from the mistakes of others.

***

To answer on what you can do, call Retrovaille, the counseling group headed by Rev. Fr. David Clay, MSSC, at 523-3361, 525-0308 or (0918) 902-0511. Others with marital problems can also call them. Look for Helen Pacheco.

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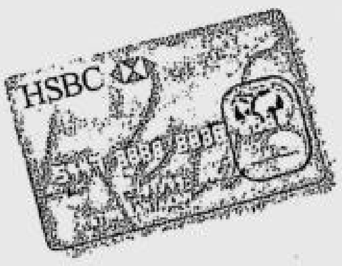

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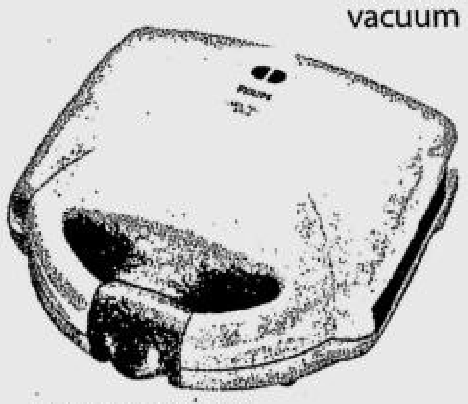

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Vicinity Map
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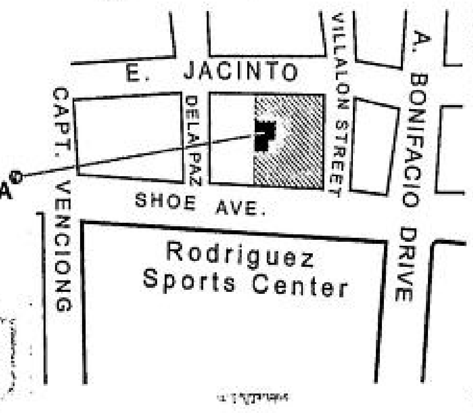

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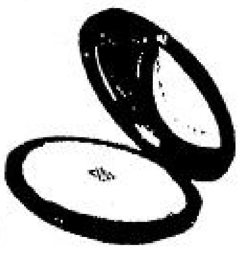

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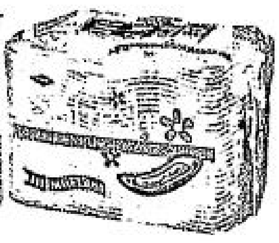

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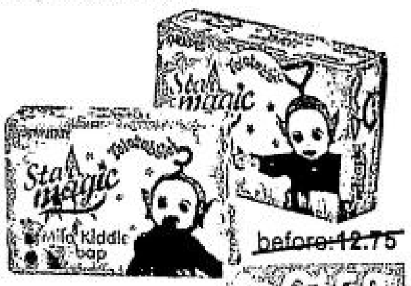

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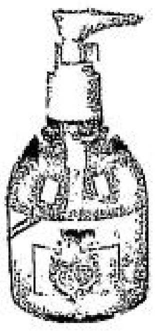

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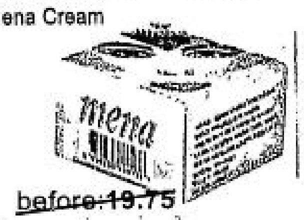

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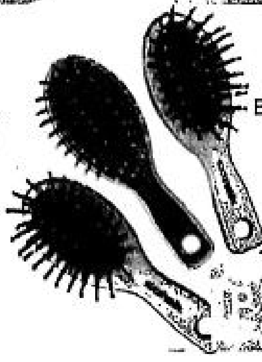

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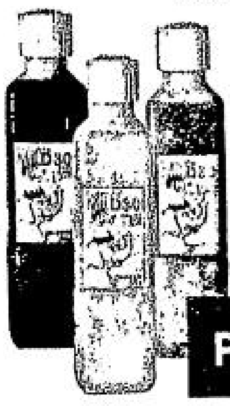

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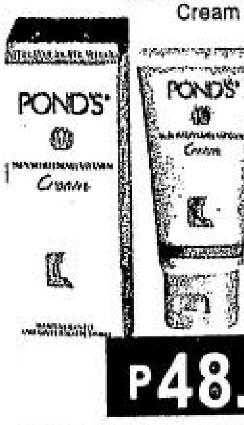

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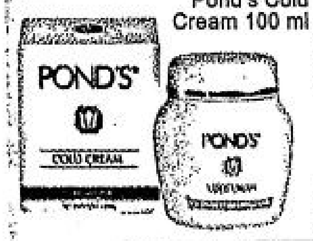

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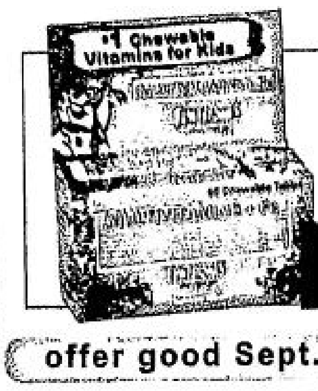

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LIFESTYLE

FASHION ADVICE

Of tummy tamers, big sizes and wrinkle-free wear

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

"When a girl feels that she's perfectly groomed and dressed she can forget that part of her. That's charm. The more parts of yourself you can afford to forget the more charm you have." **(F. Scott Fitzgerald, "Bernice Bobs Her Hair.")**

SIMPLY put, when you're at your best, it is easier to forget your self and start focusing on others. Looking and feeling good are intertwined. Bear that in mind as we tackle your numerous fashion dilemmas to help you project confidence, poise and charm.

Although I am only 5'8", I have a hard time finding trousers that fit me lengthwise if I shop at the big department stores here. Even the shops that carry foreign labels rarely have the length I need because store merchandisers buy for the average-sized customers. Wearing skirts is not really a good alternative because most skirts are too short for women like me. Which shops carry pants at affordable prices that fit tall women? What are the shopping options for tall women in this town?

My model friends and I had the very same dilemma a few years ago. At 5'8", I was one of the shorter models but I still had a difficult time shopping for trousers. Co-models like Gem Padilla and Marina Benipayo, who both towered at 5'10", had an even harder time. We would normally have our pants made by our designer friends. Or we would shop and hoard during our trips abroad. Nowadays, there are more shopping options in Manila. Although a lot of stores and local brands still don't carry pants for tall women and those that do are too pricey, we've discovered specialty shops, like Spanish brands Mango and Waipai and local but hip shop Tyler, which carry pants in different styles (jeans, slacks, flared, cigarette, etc.) for even the tallest of our friends. Items from these stores are very reasonably priced, but if you wait for sale season, they're very cheap! Of course, there's no guarantee that your preferred size will still be available by then. So, if the shoe, er, the pants fit, buy them by all means!

Another option would be to scour the bazaars and *tiangge* for export overruns that are meant for tall, long-limbed Westerners. Keep your eyes open for Ann Taylor and DKNY items that are of perfect length, style and are price-wise!

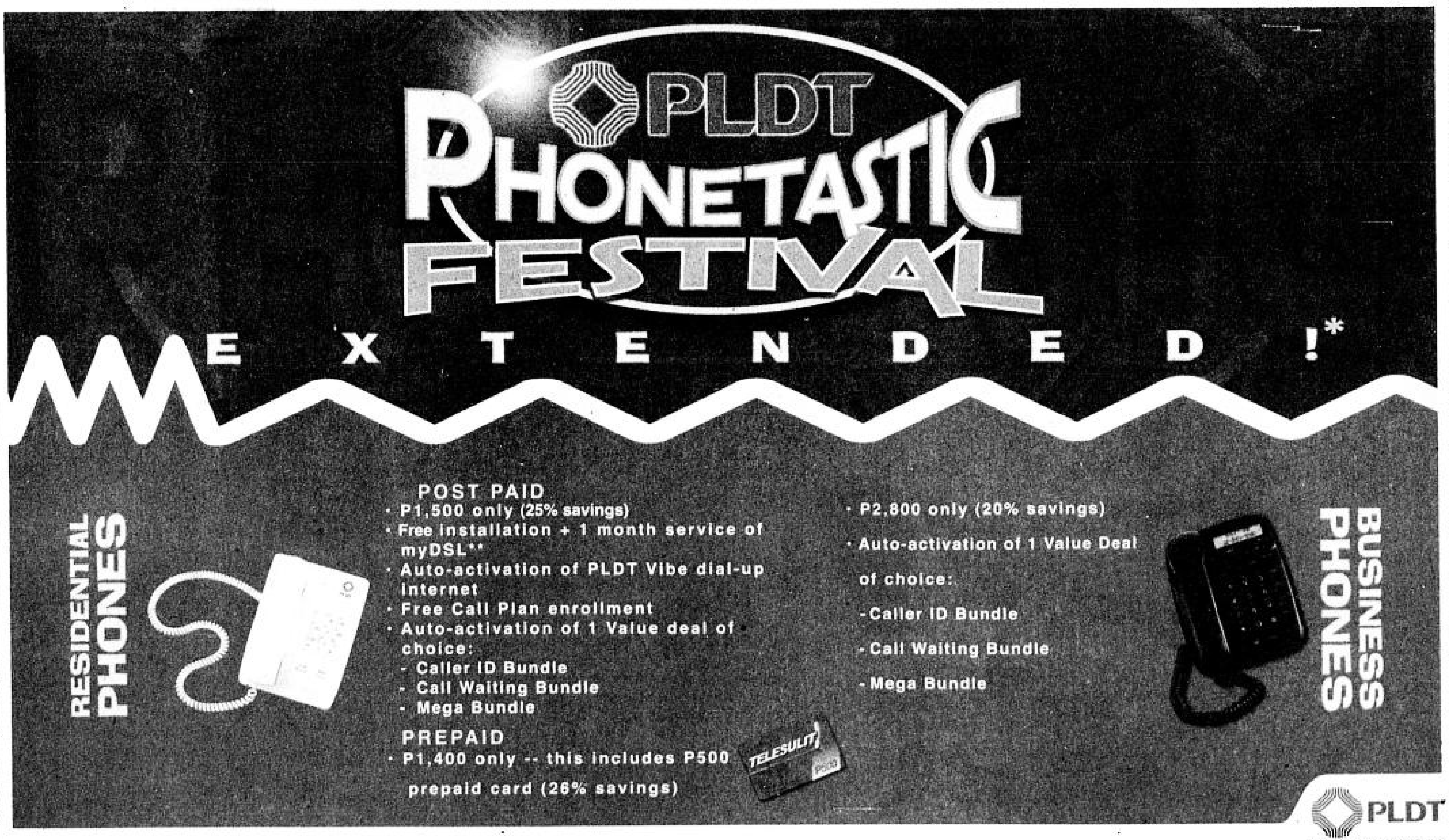
Day-to-night wear

I love to wear cool and natural materials like linen and cotton. My problem is, they wrinkle too much and by mid afternoon, I look like I've just gotten out of bed. My job sometimes requires me to make client calls in the afternoons or take them to dinner. What I need are day-into-night clothes, but I can't stand polyester or fabrics that are too hot. Help me plan a wardrobe that's versatile but cool.

There are several things to consider when building a versatile wardrobe. First, take into account your lifestyle, work, needs and preferences. Then, build around certain fabrics, colors and styles that will suit your purpose. Since we've determined that you require a wardrobe that is crisp and professional but comfortable and can take you from day-into-night, you can start by choosing fabrics like tropical wool, matte jersey, crepe and synthetic blends that are wrinkle-resistant. Although these materials are not as breathable as linen or cotton, they are easier to manage and are more business-like. With today's ever-improving technology, synthetic blends in the market are more comfortable and practical, so consider using these kinds of fabric. Next, decide on what basic color you would like to build your wardrobe around. In a professional environment, conservative colors like black or blue are de rigueur, but browns, beiges and whites are quite acceptable nowadays. Choose your color based on your skin tone. Keep in mind that those with yellowish undertones are well-complemented by warm colors like cream, beige and brown, while pinkish undertones are better with cooler hues like ice blue and winter white.

Now, it is time to buy or order the basic pieces of your wardrobe such as a jacket, pants, skirt and dress. These items are normally made of the same material and can be mixed and matched with different articles of clothing, such as polo shirts, jersey tops and silk shells, and accessories like scarves, shoes, jewelry and bags, depending on the occasion. Remember that a versatile wardrobe allows a maximum number of options with as few pieces as possible.

OF TUMMY/p.E3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YSL 2021/S

Shades of seduction

The new YSL eyewear line exudes mystery

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

YSL frame made of titanium

TODAY'S preferred eyewear is dark, sleek, unisex and a total departure from the pair of Jackie O sunglasses or aviator shades so in vogue in the last century.

Yves Saint Laurent, through local distributor New Trends Inc., provided Manila with a shade of the future as it unveiled its most recent eyewear collection in a fashion show at the Makati Shangri-La two Tuesdays ago. Organizers, led by Italian Matteo Baldo of Italy-based Safilo, devoted half of the 50-piece collection to sunglasses designed by Tom Ford. The rest of the pieces were prescription glasses.

"Although Tom Ford has taken over the creative direction at YSL," says Baldo, "[Saint Laurent's] influence still lives on through the collection, some of which were inspired by Africa where YSL was born."

There were no signs of smoked glasses that were trendy several seasons ago. Nor did mirror-like shades show their reflection. In their places were pitch-dark shades reminiscent of sunglasses worn by Idi Amin and his bodyguards—or GMA and her power cabinet. To underscore such an African statement, even two of YSL's six models were mulattos.

BLACK is beautiful and expensive.

MATTEO Baldo, regional manager of Safilo, Asia-Pacific

UNISEX glasses for him and her

Of course, Ford's take is subtler and less angular. Still, there was no room for upturned Batgirl silhouettes. Nor were there rhinestone-studded frames. Women can now wear their partner's shades and still look great under the sun.

Younger appeal

The words Yves Saint Laurent were quite noticeable on the eyewear's right temple, but none of the pieces exuded ostentatious details one would associate with a pair of Gucci or Christian Dior. Square-shaped or angular sunglasses dominated the earlier part of the show, while rimless eyewear capped off the finale.

So how does YSL compare itself with other brands, especially Gucci? Ford says it best: "The Gucci woman is a bitch who ends up being seduced by a man. The YSL lady is the one who does the seducing." Okay, whatever.

"YSL has been associated with a more mature market in previous years," says Baldo. "Through this latest collection, we hope to appeal to the younger market. We're also repositioning the brand among mature people with the right attitude."

Baldo also vouches for the frames' durability. Most of the pieces, especially those made of titanium, were manufactured in Japan. The plating process is said to be more suited to Southeast Asia's sultry weather where people normally perspire more than those living in temperate countries. "Titanium is highly resistant to fading."

YSL 6000/S

YSL 2017/S

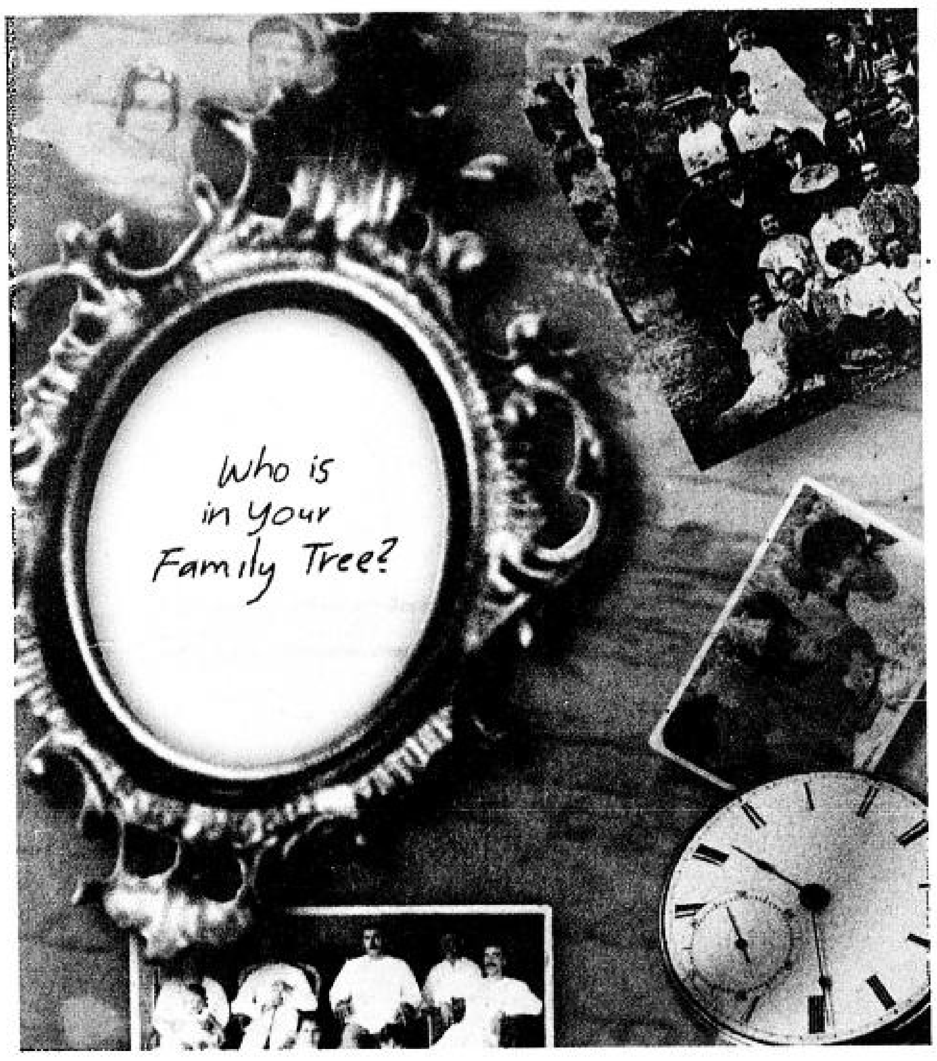
YSL 2014/S

A number of models are made of high-impact acetate. Still, several pairs have done away with de rigueur screws on the eyewear's temples.

YSL may appeal to people with a lot of spunk, but not those with limited paychecks. A pair of sunglasses, for instance, can cost somewhere between P7,000 to P10,000 depending, of course, on the model. A pair of prescription glasses can cost up to P20,000.

Oddly enough, Baldo, as regional manager of Safilo in Asia and the Pacific, is also in charge of the promotion and distribution of other high-end eyewear brands such as Ralph Lauren, Max Mara, Diesel, Carrera and, yes, Gucci. New Trends is also the exclusive distributor in the Philippines of such brands.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph


Who is in your Family Tree?

Haircut at a cost that doesn't bite

MAKEOVER 911
Kinny Salas

ONE fine Monday afternoon, I got more than I bargained for in a very good way.

I looked at the mirror and knew I couldn't put off my haircut and color touch-up any longer. Readers have also asked me to suggest a mid-range salon in terms of price because my usual recommendations, although giving fabulous results, result in a not-so-minor dent in their budgets.

I called salon franchises nearest my area that were highly recommended by friends or simply caught my interest, and requested for a "road-test." Several refused outright while others couldn't decide without their managers.

I finally called Hairbytes (Forbes Park branch) and was referred to one of their creative directors, Red Lopez. I promised to bring some identification and he said yes. First off, haircut with regular stylists is P250 for both men and women; senior stylists, P350 for men and P400 for women. Creative directors charge P400 for men and P550 for women. The wonderful thing is they accept credit cards.

In my interview with TJ, the colorist assigned to me, I found out that Hairbytes coined the term "rebonding" and that they were the first to introduce the procedure in the Philippines. They have very satisfied customers because, aside from being one of the cheapest, their maintenance is every six months as opposed to others, which is three to four months max. I learned this from a lady who was there for her sixth month-rebonding renewal. She was one of Hairbytes' first customers since two years ago. She left with silky soft hair à la Jennifer Anniston. When they rinsed off my new color, I was delighted to see that my hair shade when I was a baby was restored.

Stylist to the stars

Red, who cut my newly colored hair, gave me his calling card, which referred to him as "Celebrity Stylist." I was delighted to find out that he was Claudine Barretto and the late Rico Yan's hair and makeup stylist in the movie "Got to Believe." Many readers admired Barretto's makeup and hair in that movie and people have hounded me wanting to know who did her hair and makeup and what products were used to achieve her look. I saw the movie myself and was very impressed by her very natural "no-makeup look." Everything was applied with a light hand and the makeup looked flawless.

Red's latest achievement in the movie "Jologs" was making the young actor Baron Geisler look like a seductive, exotic woman. Geisler was actually very pretty judging by what I saw in the preview.

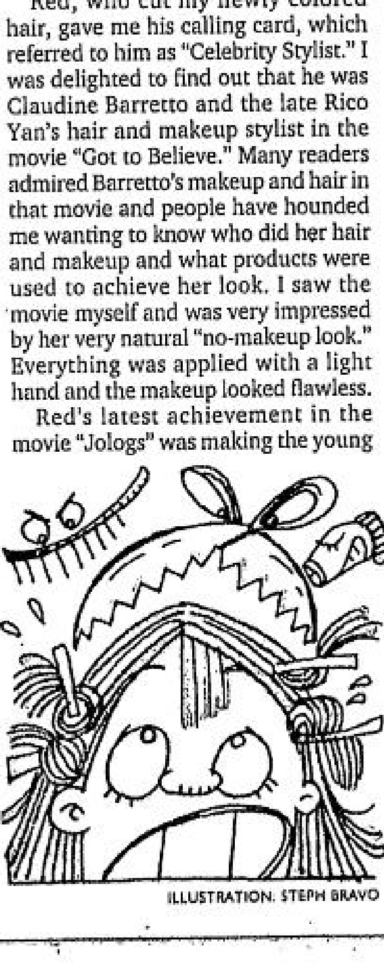


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

My hair was taking shape by this time and the style was definitely different. It was still long but the layering was more gradual. My friends later said I looked so much younger. I was then whisked off to hair and scalp treatment that made my scalp minty and tingly, and my hair nourished. Part of the treatment was a scalp, neck, shoulder and up to lower back massage. TJ, apparently in demand for this kind of service, was taught by Red (who is actually a physical therapist), so he hit all the right pressure points.

The final part was the blow-drying, where I was given a very coquettish hairstyle with bouncing curls and a half-hidden right eye. Very film noir à la Veronica Lake. It took one week for my hair to settle but even after that time, it was still full of body, manageable and pretty much wash-and-wear. Oh, before I forget, I finally found a hair conditioner that gave the same silky results as those that come with the home hair-dye kits. It is called L'Oreal Intense Repair Service Expert and it costs P680/jar in Hairbytes.

FYI: Hairbytes has six branches—San Antonio Plaza, Forbes Park, Makati (tel. 887-2047/2084); Greenhills (tel. 723-5698/5657); Edsa Shangri-La (tel. 635-7379 or 631-0017); Gamboa Street, Makati (tel. 893-3497/3843); Katipunan (tel. 434-8802/8775); and Alabang (tel. 842-4028).

Rebonding prices vary according to hair length and the amount of chemical needed to get your hair to behave.

At the Ladies' Shoes Department
UNLISTED
Two-tone leather mules in neutral colors
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Of tummy tamers, big sizes and wrinkle-free wear

From page E1

Tuck it in

I have had a problem with my tummy ever since I gave birth to my first child. After three pregnancies, I've had to wear a girdle whenever I have to put on something dressy because I feel conscious of my fat belly. But every time I wear a girdle underneath a knit, body-hugging top, I end up not wanting to go out. The girdle is just so obvious under a knit material. Ditto with silk and soft fabrics. Is there something else in the market that will tuck in my tummy other than a girdle—or surgery?

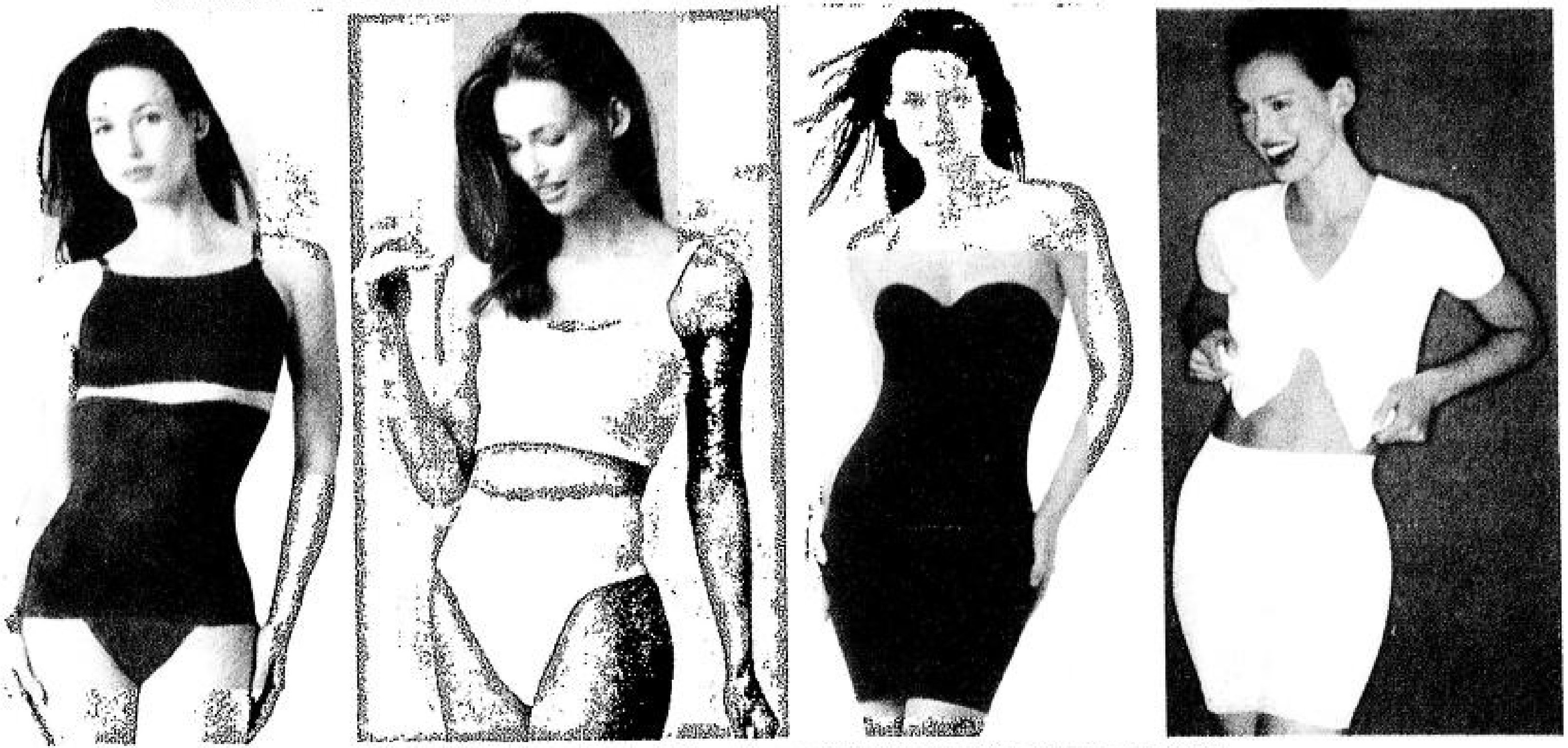
There is no need to resort to surgery to solve your problem. There are numerous figure-fixers in the market that are not as bulky as an old-fashioned girdle and can be worn under clingy knits, silk jersey, airy chiffon and other such delicate sheer fabrics. One such figure-enhancing product is the ever-dependable control-top pantyhose. It provides support around the stomach area, thus minimizing girth. There are even thicker versions that also provide support for the legs and buttocks. Another such miracle product is the control-top thong panty. It works exactly like a girdle, minus unsightly panty lines.

If they don't work, there's a whole new selection of lycra-based slimming undergarments that are almost like second skin and can provide more coverage and support from the breasts to the thighs. There are strapless full-support body slips that lift the bust line, tuck in the stomach and slim the torso and hips. There are also high-waisted belly shapers that help emphasize the waist. There are also long-leg support panties that hold in the belly and flabby thighs and waist cincher panties that control bulging tummies without pinching at the waist and leg. You can find all these in the lingerie sections of your favorite stores. Check out Maidenform, Wacoal, Marks & Spencer's and other brands. When shopping, don't be afraid to ask questions and to try on products. You can even bring your outfit to try on with your choice of undergarment.

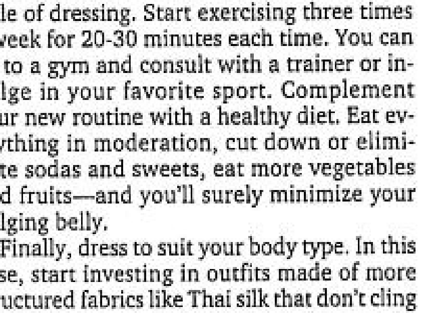
If all these products are not enough to disguise your problem area, maybe it is time to reevaluate your lifestyle, diet and even your style of dressing. Start exercising three times a week for 20-30 minutes each time. You can go to a gym and consult with a trainer or indulge in your favorite sport. Complement your new routine with a healthy diet. Eat everything in moderation, cut down or eliminate sodas and sweets, eat more vegetables and fruits—and you'll surely minimize your bulging belly.

Finally, dress to suit your body type. In this case, start investing in outfits made of more structured fabrics like Thai silk that don't cling to the body. Also take into consideration the silhouette of your evening attire. A-line or empire cuts will suit you best. Keep in mind that black is slimming, so it's a good idea to pair a black A-line skirt with a colored top.

I'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail your questions, comments and suggestions to apsadvice@hotmail.com.



FROM MAIDENFORM (from left): Long Torso Waistshaper, Control Thong firm control, Strapless Slip and Long Leg Panty



Big men can be stylish, too

MEN who are on the chubby side won't have to settle for tacky, uncomfortable clothes with the M Big Men shop.

Located at 2/L Via Moda Node, Festival Supermall, Alabang, the shop offers plus-sized clothing for men who are horizontally challenged.

M Big Men also prides itself in providing exceptional service to its growing number of customers. In producing clothes, foremost consideration of the shop's designers was size. Other factors considered are fabric texture, style and color.

Big Men clothes aim to be chic and fashionable, modern, unconventional, elegant and, most importantly, affordable.

The store is planning to open 10 more shops inside and outside of Metro Manila in the next five years.

I think I may be falling in love.
2 abc
5 jkl
8 tuv
0 +
SIEMENS
SIEMENS M50
2002.07.18 18:00
Games
Menu
M50
Be Inspired
Bowling
Spruce Biorhythm
Brainiac

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Speak your mind with Siemens M50. Play the hottest games, load exciting screensavers and other animated features made possible with Java™ applications*. Explore the web through its high-speed GPRS*. Get cozy via instant chat through ICQ/Instant Messaging, then set your dates with the event reminder.

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Bowling: Bowl and strike! Show off your best bowling skills.

Spruce Biorhythm: Tells your intellectual, emotional, physical strengths for 10 days judging from your date of birth.

Brainiac: Do you have what it takes to be a Brainiac? This brain-teaser game will let you test your brain power and logical thinking skills.

BASIC long-sleeve shirt (P895), pintuck-pleat pelmet skirt (P1,195), studded belt (P1,145), red paisley headscarf (P545) and embossed whipstitch bag (P1,145)

AUTHENTIC BRANDED GOODS
Classic
STAR DIVISION 1967

SPORTY Bardot tee (P1,195), Suco pencil skirt (P2,245), crochet skull cap (P595) and washed canvas bag (P745)

SLEEVELESS denim shirtdress (P3,045), beaded Moulo bikini top (P745), denim and faux lamb's wool bag (P1,295) and butterfly belt (P745)

V-NECK long-sleeve top (P1,045), three-button trousers (P2,445), hoop and suede ties belt (P1,095) and basic beige club bag (P745)

For women on top

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Mike Alquinto

You can put together a take-charge look with these clothes and accessories

A WOMAN'S place is on top—of the style heap that is, so let's stick to the issue.

Understanding this, ready-to-wear label Topshop has been whipping up clothes that put women in the best light. This season is no different.

Street hip with a lot of verve, the UK brand serves up four trends that indulge every fashion junkie's fancy.

It's rummage time in the dusty storage for those vintage sneakers with the sporty '70s retro theme. Denims, cords, checks, fringey suedes—bring out the lasso as cowgirl whimsy is on the table with the Frontier look. There are eclectic bends on Japanese and Chinoise elements with Club Kimono. The Russian sojourn starts with rich fabrics and climaxes with colorful ornamentations.

Though it has become the house of worship for young, creative and high-spirited women, Topshop's clothes are never daunting. Their appeal has broken the bounds of age. They are wearable classics reworked with quirky and fresh twists that make them so now, yet make good investment pieces that can take the wearer from one season to the next.

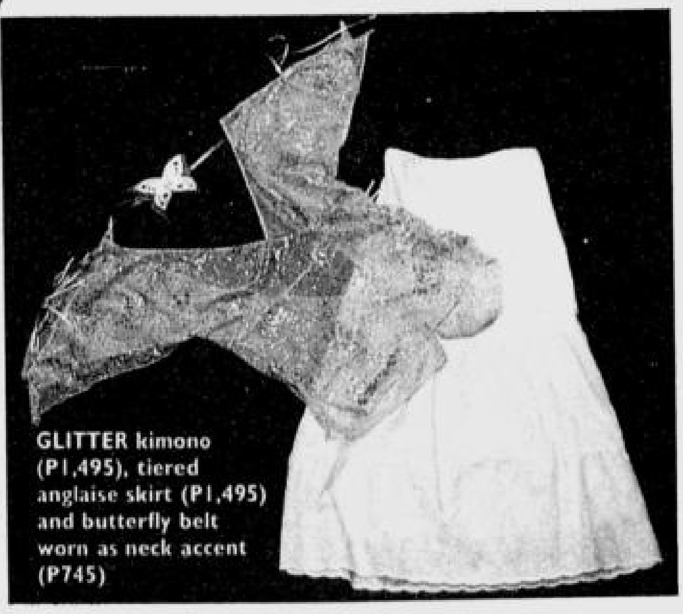
It's hard not to fall in love with the clothes as they provide a lot of room for individual expression: a change of accessory here, a different shoe there—no girl ever has to look like the next.

With Topshop for an ally, how can any woman ever again feel like fashion is the pits?

ALL CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES FROM TOPSHOP (2/L PADRE FAURA WING, ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA, AND 2/L ROBINSONS GALLERIA)

WASHED '70s-print long-sleeve shirt (P1,895), appliquéd Cornelli jeans (P2,445), blocked Donny cap (P895) and suede tassel purse (P495)

CROPPED denim jacket (P2,595), yellow tee (P1,095), wrap cord skirt (P2,295) and crochet skull cap (P595)



GLITTER kimono (P1,495), tiered anglaise skirt (P1,495) and butterfly belt worn as neck accent (P745)

RED skinny ribbed tee (P1,145), suede belted mac (P6,445), casual denim slacks (P1,495), and hoop and suede ties belt (P1,095)

FRONTIER cheesecloth shirt (P1,695), belted cord skirt (P2,295), eyelet lace-up denim bag (P1,145) and beige Emily hat (P1,495)

BLACK obi-wrap top (P1,195), stretch wrap skirt (P1,195) and Oriental denim body bag (P1,145)

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In Your Neighborhood
shade
SALE
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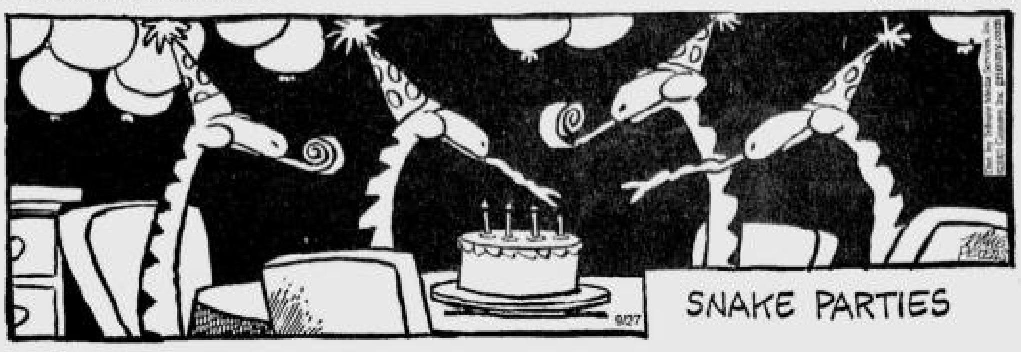
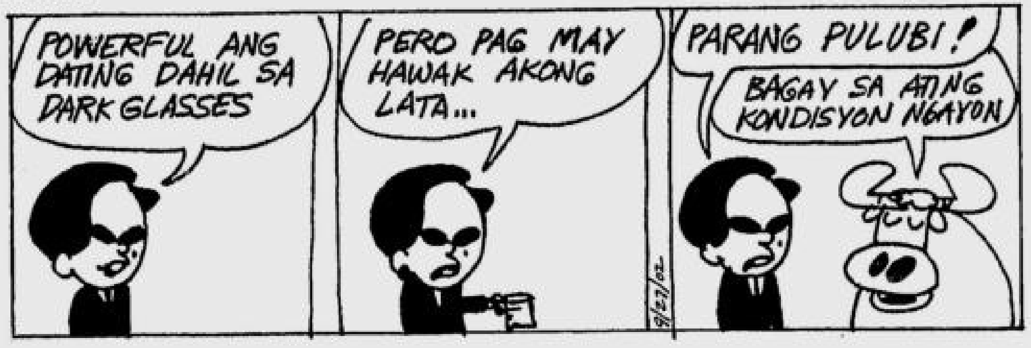
SALE also ongoing at Level 2, Robinsons Starmills, Olongapo-Gapan Road, San Fernando, Pampanga

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3808 Series of 2002

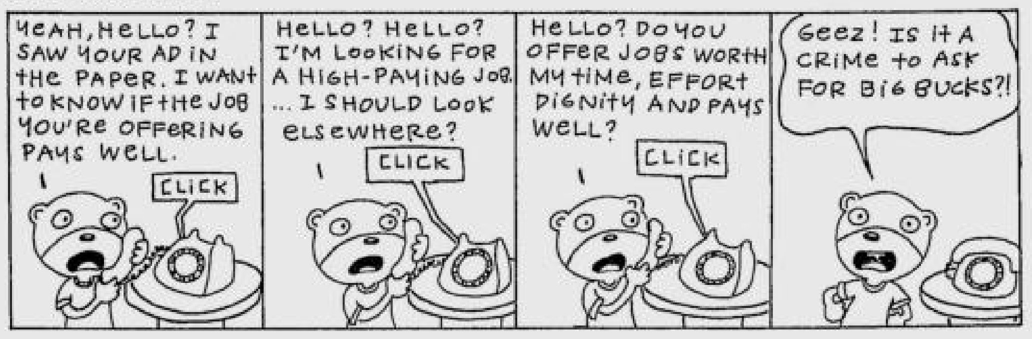
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


SNAKE PARTIES
9/27

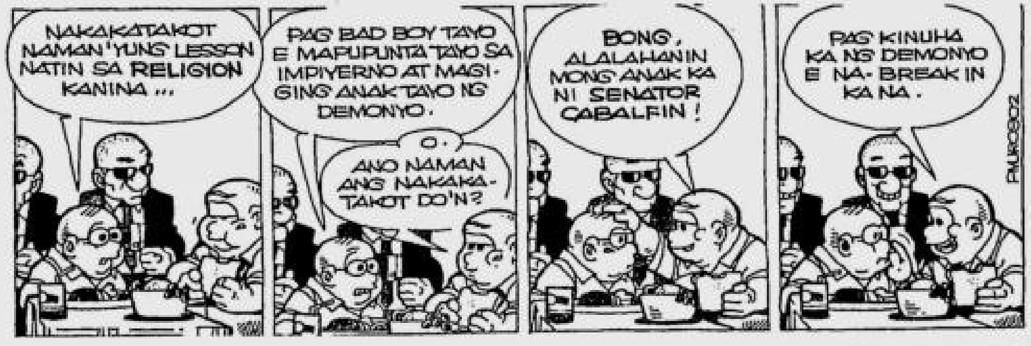
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


POWERFUL ANG DATING DAHIL SA DARK GLASSES
PERO PAG MAY HAWAK AKONG LATA...
9/27/02
PARANG PULUBI!
BAGAY SA ATING KONDISYON NGAYON

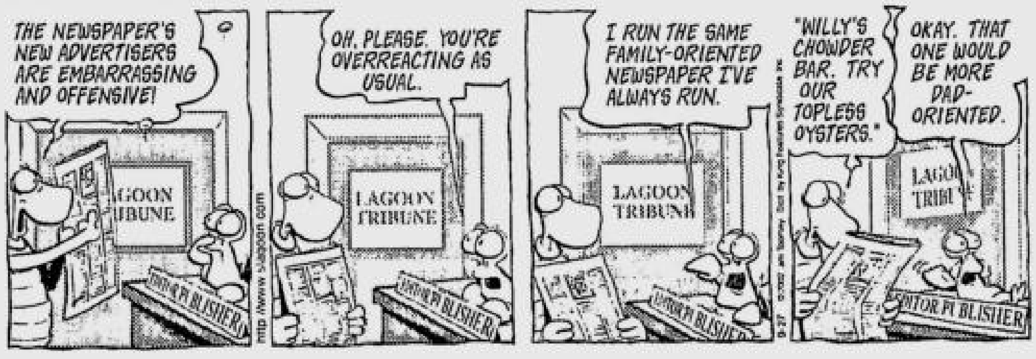
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YEAH, HELLO? I SAW YOUR AD IN THE PAPER. I WANT TO KNOW IF THE JOB YOU'RE OFFERING PAYS WELL.
CLICK
HELLO? HELLO? I'M LOOKING FOR A HIGH-PAYING JOB. ... I SHOULD LOOK ELSEWHERE?
CLICK
HELLO? DO YOU OFFER JOBS WORTH MY TIME, EFFORT DIGNITY AND PAYS WELL?
CLICK
GEEZ! IS IT A CRIME TO ASK FOR BIG BUCKS?!

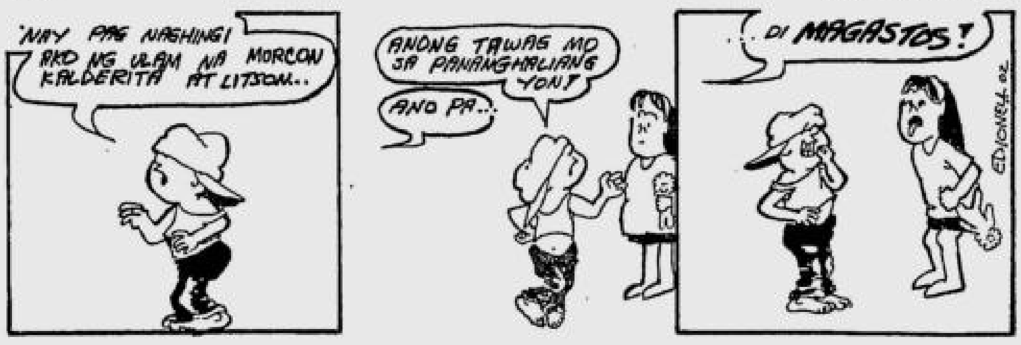
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAKAKATAKOT NAMAN 'YUNG LESSON NATIN SA RELIGION KANINA ...
PAG BAD BOY TAYO E MAPUPUNTA TAYO SA IMPIYERNO AT MAGIGING ANAK TAYO NG DEMONYO.
O.
ANO NAMAN ANG NAKAKATAKOT DO'N?
BONG, ALALAHANIN MONG ANAK KA NI SENATOR CABALFIN!
PAG KINUHA KA NG DEMONYO E NA-BREAK IN KA NA.
PMJR0802

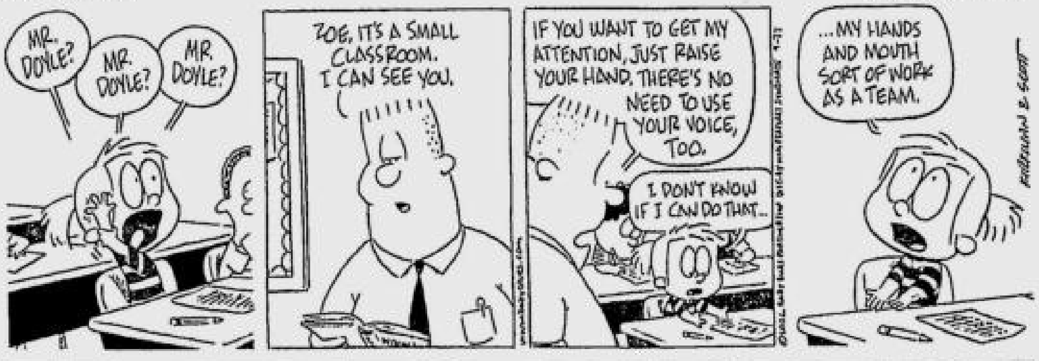
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


THE NEWSPAPER'S NEW ADVERTISERS ARE EMBARRASSING AND OFFENSIVE!
LAGOON TRIBUNE
EDITOR PUBLISHER
OH, PLEASE. YOU'RE OVERREACTING AS USUAL.
http://www.slagoon.com
I RUN THE SAME FAMILY-ORIENTED NEWSPAPER I'VE ALWAYS RUN.
"WILLY'S CHOWDER BAR. TRY OUR TOPLESS OYSTERS."
OKAY. THAT ONE WOULD BE MORE DAD-ORIENTED.

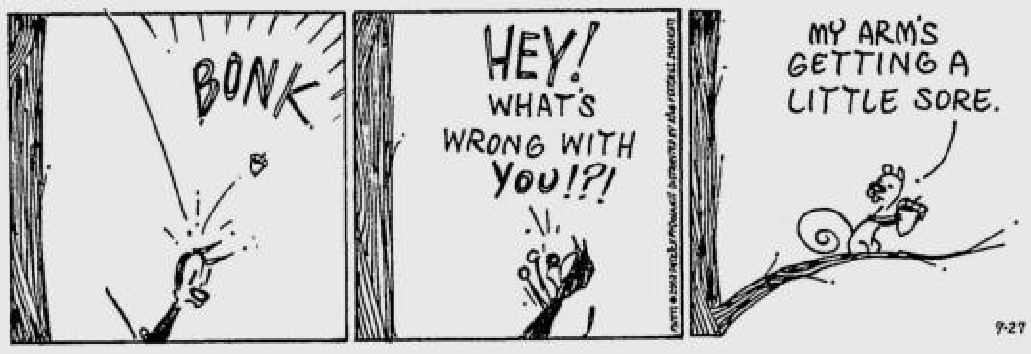
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


'NAY PAG NAGHINGI AKO NG ULAM NA MORCON KALDERITA AT LITSON..
ANONG TAWAG MO SA PANANGHALIANG YON?
ANO PA...
...DI MAGASTOS!
EDIONELA 02

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


MR. DOYLE?
MR. DOYLE?
MR DOYLE?
ZOE, IT'S A SMALL CLASSROOM. I CAN SEE YOU.
IF YOU WANT TO GET MY ATTENTION, JUST RAISE YOUR HAND. THERE'S NO NEED TO USE YOUR VOICE, TOO.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THAT...
...MY HANDS AND MOUTH SORT OF WORK AS A TEAM.

MUTTS BYPATRICK McDONNELL


BONK
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!?!
MY ARM'S GETTING A LITTLE SORE.
9-27

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: A Martinez, Randy Bachman, Shaun Cassidy, Mike Schmidt

Happy Birthday: Be more selective in your choices this year so you don't take on too much and fall short of your goals. Say no to something that doesn't appeal to you. Personal relationships may not go the way you want them to. If you are persistent and focus on precisely what you want to accomplish, you will reach your goals. Your numbers are 5, 13, 27, 33, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get together with close friends or neighbors. A short jaunt to a nearby recreation facility will bring you in contact with interesting individuals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may find yourself facing a financial burden if you don't stay on top of your personal portfolio. Don't let anyone else handle your money. Changes at work will turn out to be to your benefit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't test your partner's patience by asking too many questions. Actions will definitely speak louder than words. You may be dealing with a situation that you know very little about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can expect someone to try to hold you back today. Be cautious not to give away all your trade secrets. This is a perfect time to invest a little in your home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be too hard on the people you know through group associations. You need to get out and socialize with friends. Romance is likely to blossom today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone you live with will be disgruntled about his life. Be congenial and offer to help make the necessary changes. Home improvement projects will pay off. Focus on professional gains.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may want to take off on a mini vacation, or at least take a jaunt to a place of entertainment. Buying something that will enhance your looks or your image will perk you up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may be concerned with elderly person you're close to. Offer to take care of his needs. Money can be made through investments, winnings or other means that you don't have to work for.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let your partner take advantage of you. You will have a lot of charisma today and you should be able to captivate any group of people you talk to. Take action by getting involved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you put in a little extra time to whatever it is that you need to accomplish, it won't go unnoticed. This is the perfect day to start taking better care of yourself.

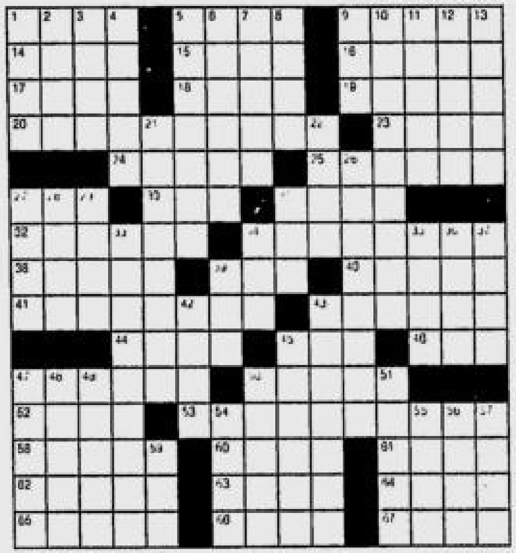
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Elaborate on your talent by taking it to the next level. Now is the time to let other people see what you are capable of doing. Social events will lead to an interesting chance meeting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can expect to experience some confusion at home today. Don't let delays get you down. Changes made to your home will be uplifting.

Birthday Baby: You will be able to articulate well throughout life. You will be a perfectionist who sees clearly what you're capable of doing. You will be emotional and intent on getting your own way.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

9/27/02

ACROSS
1 Wild attempt
5 Lifted, as an anchor
9 Higher of two
14 Zhivago's love
15 German auto
16 Find an answer
17 PC symbol
18 Inflection
19 From the top
20 Lovesick or a LEM
23 At some prior time
24 "On the Beach" author
25 Clicks the default button
27 Existed
30 Seller's $ equivocation
31 Money plant
32 Egyptian birds
34 Billboard display
38 Dark time
39 Jurist Fortas
40 Pathogenic bacteria
41 Military VIPs
43 Quill adjunct
44 Snakelike fish
45 Museum display
46 Sheepish she
47 Worn rug?
50 Floating ice
52 Sea fliers
53 Blank sheet or tidies after midnight
58 The same
60 River of Pisa
61 Lena or Ken
62 Theme
63 Neat competitor
64 Fleming's spy
65 Exhausted
66 Other
67 Red and deep [illegible]

DOWN
1 Slender
2 Tex-Mex order
3 End of a buck?
4 Wedding announcement
5 Spas
6 Portuguese port
7 Trial setting
8 AC/DC power
9 NATO member
10 Toy or comics character's parasite
11 Evening tool
12 Eject from the premises
13 Coty and Clair
21 Footwear preserver
22 Singer Kristofferson
26 Political understandings
27 Party faction
28 Irish Rose's love
29 Portent
31 A Stooge
33 Diploma or ram's cousin
34 "Nova" network
35 Curt negative
36 Look of love
37 Web location
39 Capp and Gore
42 McCowen or Baldwin
43 Mesabi Range product
45 Ms. Morissette
47 Sides in sports
48 Lowest deck of a ship
49 Join together
50 Wild
51 Slovenly persons
54 Kent's beloved
55 __ vera
56 Turner of song
57 Ceases
59 Small newt

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

E	G	A	D	■	O	B	I	E	S	■	Y	O	G	A
S	O	L	E	■	C	E	S	T	A	■	E	V	E	N
P	O	O	F	■	T	R	E	A	T	■	N	O	N	E
O	F	F	Y	E	A	R	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N
O	F	T	■	E	N	A	■	■	■	H	A	D	A	T
■	■	■	G	E	E	■	H	A	L	E	■	■	■	■
A	T	T	U	■	■	H	O	R	O	S	C	O	P	E
B	R	O	A	D	W	A	Y	M	U	S	I	C	A	L
S	U	M	M	A	R	I	L	Y	■	■	T	A	L	L
■	■	■	■	T	Y	R	E	■	E	Y	E	■	■	■
B	O	M	B	E	■	■	■	E	R	A	■	A	L	A
A	W	A	R	D	S	O	F	D	A	M	A	G	E	S
I	N	C	A	■	T	H	A	I	S	■	S	I	N	S
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S	P	O	T	■	P	O	R	T	S	■	S	E	N	T

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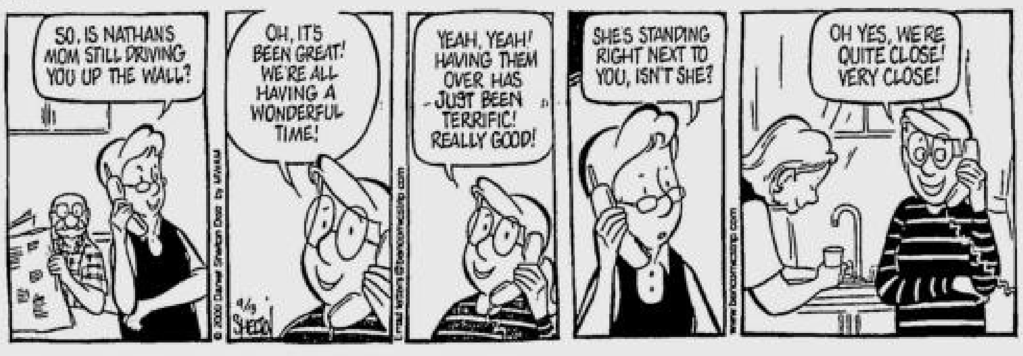
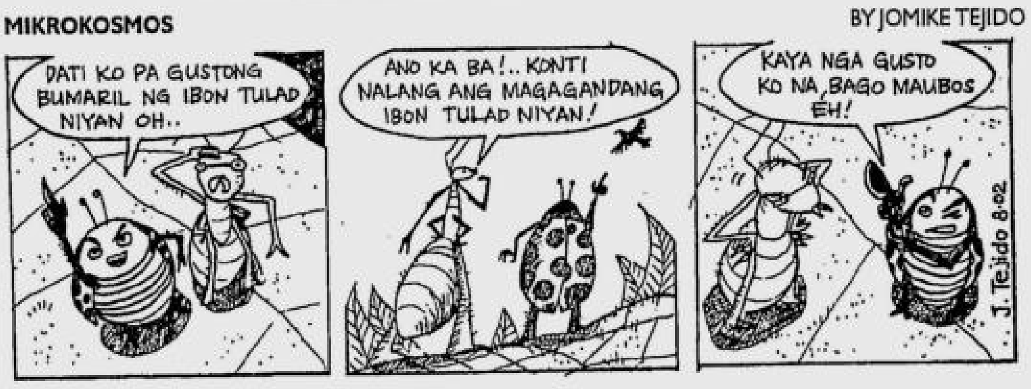
9/27/02

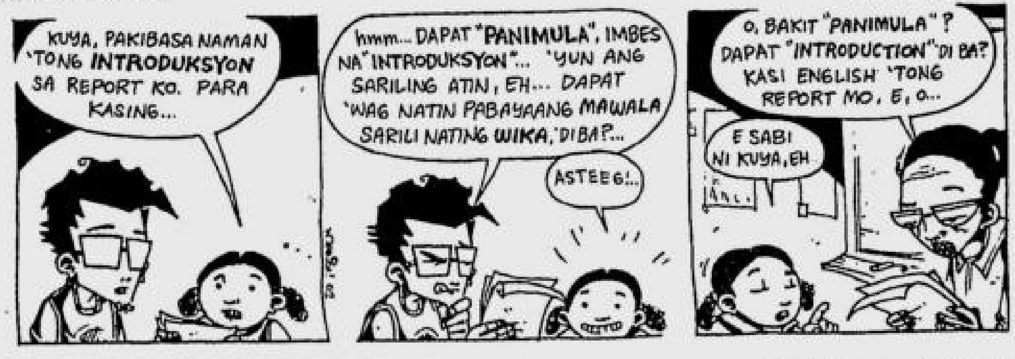
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO, IS NATHAN'S MOM STILL DRIVING YOU UP THE WALL?
OH, IT'S BEEN GREAT! WE'RE ALL HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME!
YEAH, YEAH! HAVING THEM OVER HAS JUST BEEN TERRIFIC! REALLY GOOD!
SHE'S STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO YOU, ISN'T SHE?
OH YES, WE'RE QUITE CLOSE! VERY CLOSE!

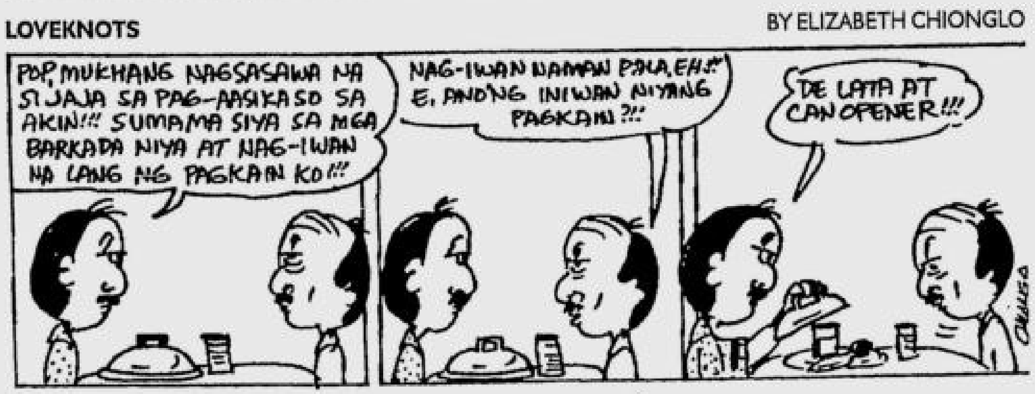
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DATI KO PA GUSTONG BUMARIL NG IBON TULAD NIYAN OH..
ANO KA BA!.. KONTI NALANG ANG MAGAGANDANG IBON TULAD NIYAN!
KAYA NGA GUSTO KO NA, BAGO MAUBOS EH!
J. Tejido 8·02

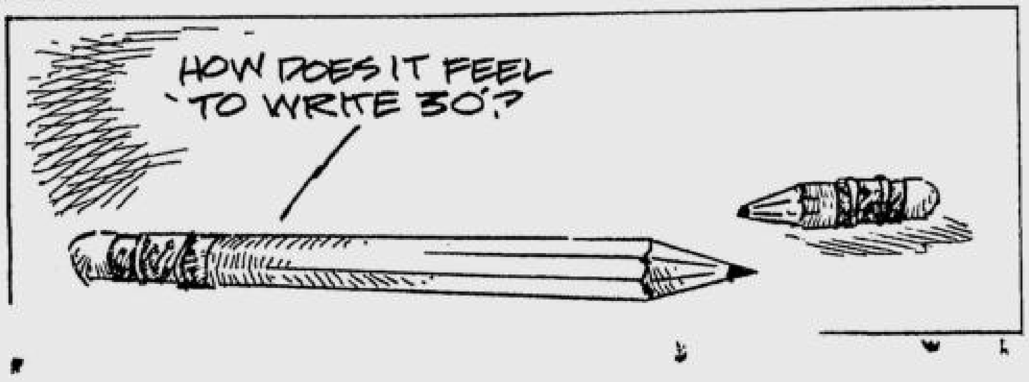
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

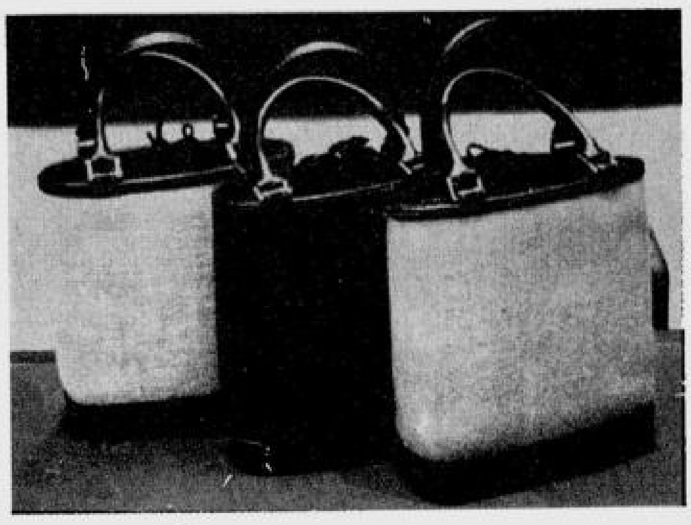

KUYA, PAKIBASA NAMAN 'TONG INTRODUKSYON SA REPORT KO. PARA KASING...
hmm... DAPAT "PANIMULA", IMBES NA "INTRODUKSYON"... 'YUN ANG SARILING ATIN, EH... DAPAT 'WAG NATIN PABAYAANG MAWALA SARILI NATING WIKA, 'DI BA?...
ASTEEG!..
O, BAKIT "PANIMULA"? DAPAT "INTRODUCTION" DI BA? KASI ENGLISH 'TONG REPORT MO, E, O...
E SABI NI KUYA, EH

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, MUKHANG NAGSASAWA NA SI JAJA SA PAG-AASIKASO SA AKIN!!! SUMAMA SIYA SA MGA BARKADA NIYA AT NAG-IWAN NA LANG NG PAGKAIN KO!!!
NAG-IWAN NAMAN PALA, EH!!! E, ANO'NG INIWAN NIYANG PAGKAIN?!!
DE LATA AT CAN OPENER!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HOW DOES IT FEEL TO WRITE '30'?



BILBAO. Small bucket bag with cloth inner pouch and drawstring closure. Three color ways: khaki jute with black faux, black jute with black faux and natural jute with black faux (P1,698)

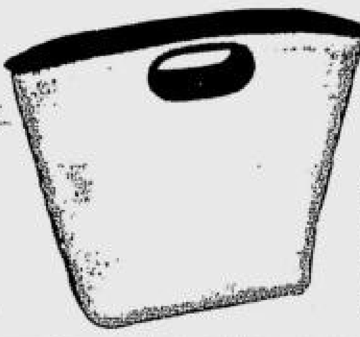
Sack it to me

Text by Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Romy Homillada

AS women parade their favorite leathers, fabulous or faux, a local staple makes a comeback—the jute, a luxurious handwoven fabric that has been used for centuries. Tightly woven and sturdy, jute has become one of the most stylish yet functional materials in fashion today.

Voyage combines the finest jute with the most supple faux leather, creating style with a sense of tradition. Oval or square, in bucket or tote, the jute represents classic comfort and style.

The jute has given a boost to the tropical look

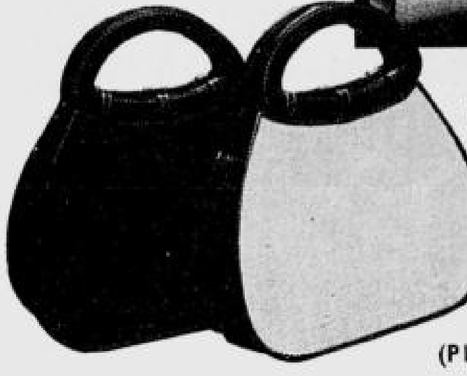


COSTA RICA. Large tote with cut-oval hole handle. Faux trim on handle and rim. Natural jute with black faux (P1,698)

MONTEREY. Square tote (in small and large sizes) with rectangular silver accessory on piped handle. Faux trim cut-outs on bottom corners and base of bag. Shown in one color way: natural jute with red faux (P1,698 small, P1,898 large)

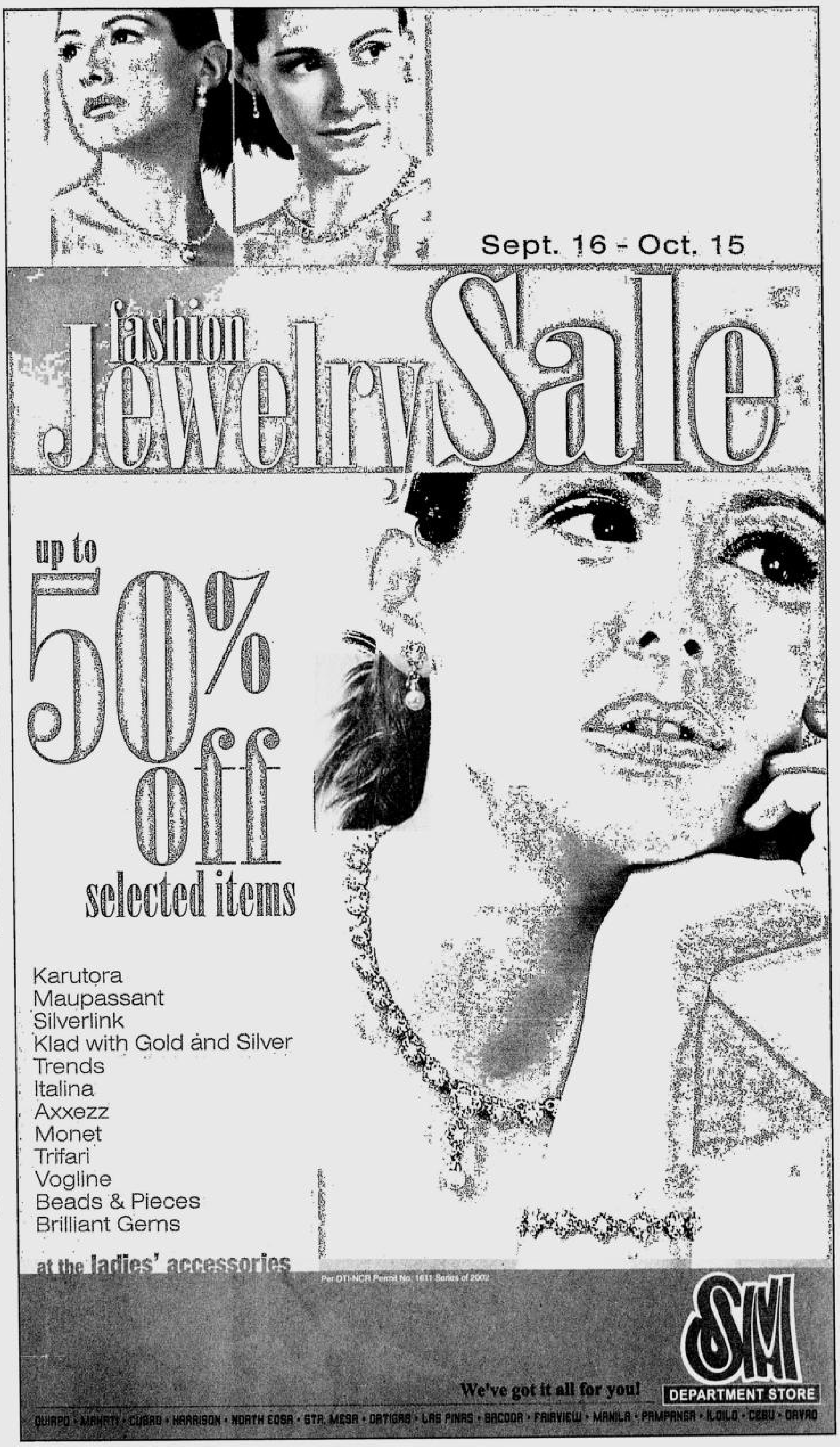
STA. FE. Large bucket with faux flap and belt loop-type closure. Faux piping on sides of the bag. Natural jute with black faux (P2,098)

ALL ITEMS FROM VOYÂGE, 3/F POWER PLANT MALL, ROCKWELL, MAKATI



PUERTO VALLARTA. Oval tote with belt loop detail on handle. Two color ways: black jute with black faux and natural jute with black faux (P1,898)

ACAPULCO. Hobo-shaped structured tote with rectangular silver accessory on handle. Flap with silver lock detail for closure. Two color ways: black jute with black faux and natural jute with black faux (P2,098)



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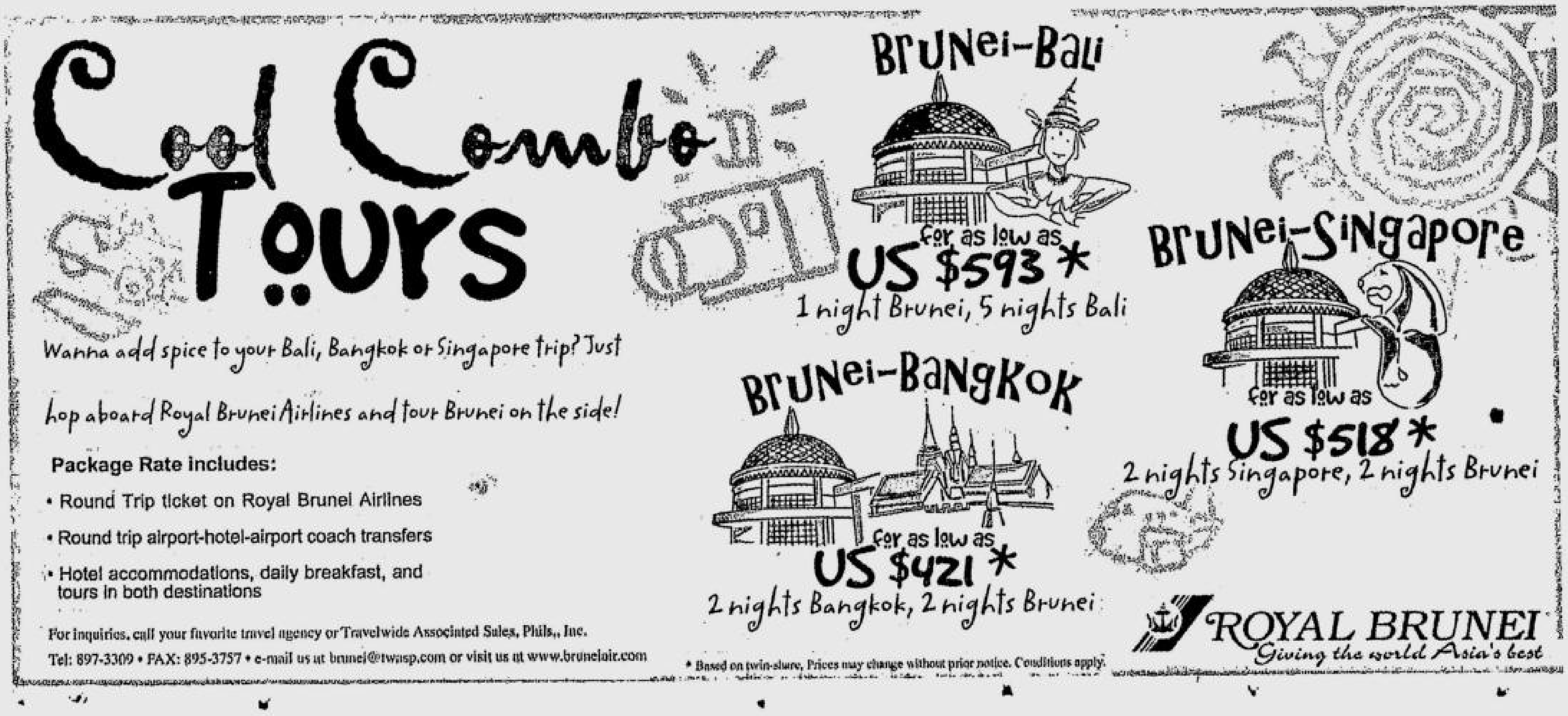

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HOLLYWOOD actress Anne Archer is Imedeen's international image model.

ON THE 10TH anniversary of Imedeen, the breakthrough skincare product in tablet form, the Ferrosan A/S headquarters in Denmark was abuzz with preparations for the Imedeen Time Perfection launching in more than 70 countries around the world where it does business. Imedeen is only one of the pharmaceuticals, herbal medicines and dietary supplements developed and manufactured by Ferrosan.

A food supplement, Imedeen is an advanced tablet formula for defending, improving and perfecting the skin. The recommended daily intake is two tablets a day with a glass of water. After 2-3 months of daily use, there is noticeable improvement on your skin, initially on dry areas such as the shins, elbows and hands. The face and the rest of the body follow.

This is not to say that you don't have to cleanse, tone, moisturize and protect your skin from the outside. But where most skincare products only work on the skin's outer layer, Imedeen operates from within.

Skin deep

Skin is a person's biggest organ and it's very important that you

SMOOTH/ p.F3

Real People. True Stories.

"I've worked hard for all I've achieved – but why should it show on my skin? Imedeen's my way of saying 'thank you' to myself."

Alice Devulgado, 47,
former working student,
now founder & president of
ABD Overseas Manpower Corp.

As a child in Abra, Alice crossed a river to reach school -- today, she helps others cross oceans to a better life. But this hardworking lady doesn't forget herself in the process: "Others spend on clothes or jewelry – why not on your skin?" Of course, an achiever like Alice demands a product that delivers – that's why she uses Imedeen. Imedeen works on skin's inner layers -- for firm, radiant skin 24 hours a day. "My colleagues notice that despite a hectic and stressful schedule, I still manage to look good...when they ask why I'm 'blooming', I tell them: it's not a facelift, it's Imedeen!" Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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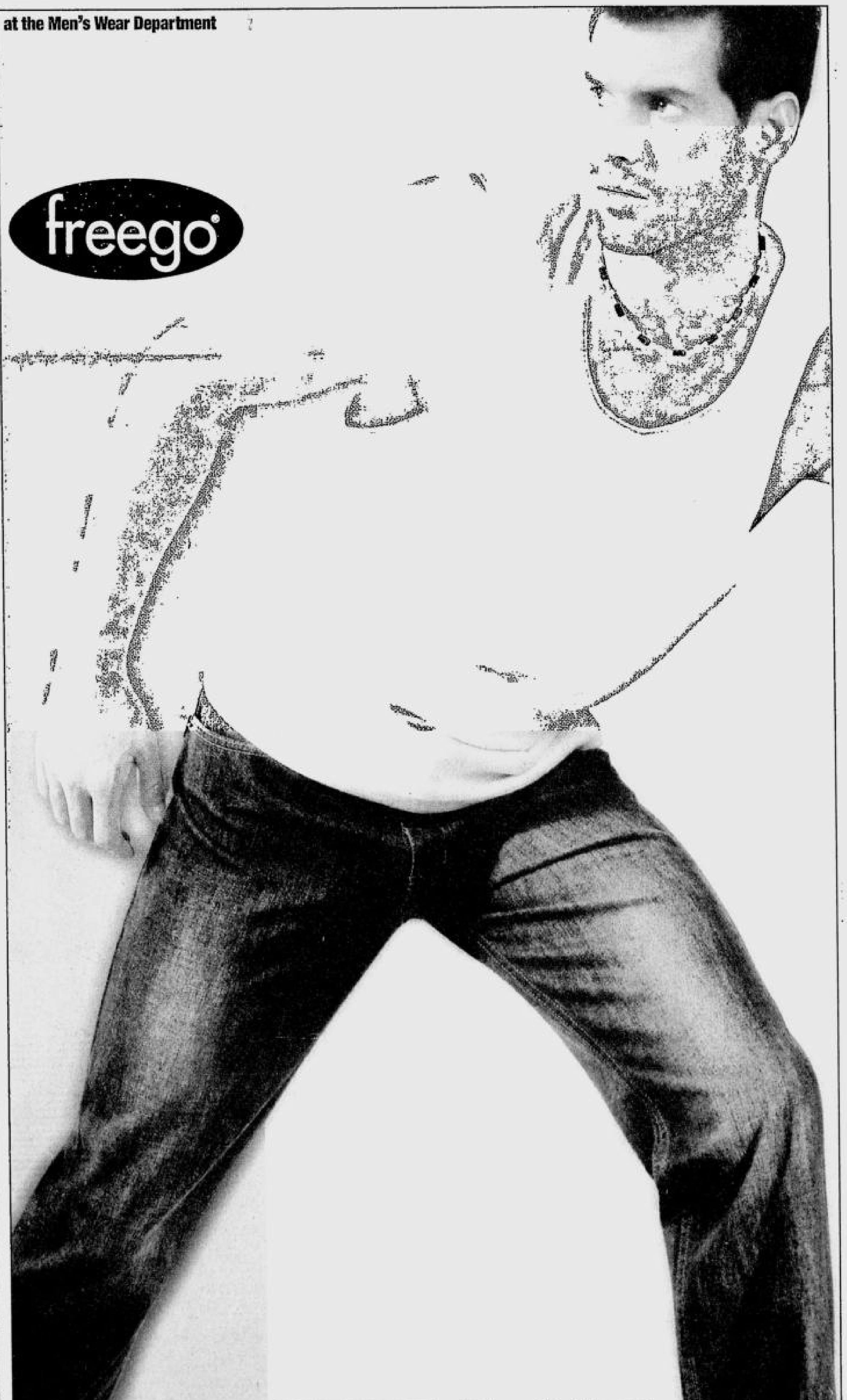

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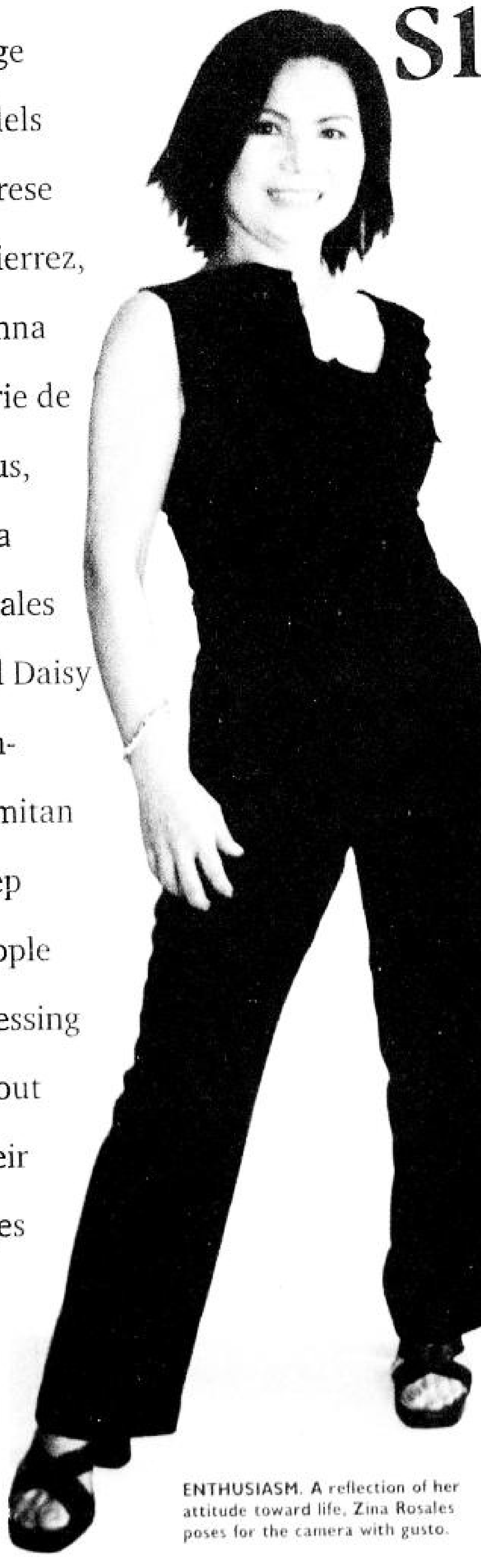
CONTENTMENT. Behind the twinkle in Therese Gutierrez's eyes is a happy home.

Divine secrets of the fool-ya sisterhood

Imedeen image models Therese Gutierrez, Joanna Marie de Jesus, Zina Rosales and Daisy Lim-Camitan keep people guessing about their ages



ENTHUSIASM. A reflection of her attitude toward life, Zina Rosales poses for the camera with gusto.

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

WHEN you can't guess a woman's age by her looks, you give her a compliment. But when you err about her age and put it 10 years younger than she really is, that is an even bigger compliment.

Four women are familiar with this scenario, and they're not celebrities—or at least not yet. They have one thing in common—they all use the skincare supplement Imedeen.

Happy mom

Trim and fresh-faced, Therese Gutierrez, 31, has three kids, with one more on the way. "I gain weight only on my seventh month [of pregnancy]," says the soft-spoken mom.

A scuba diver like her husband Jerome, Gutierrez used to go to the gym. "I had to slow down when I got pregnant. But running after my kids (ages 8, 4 and 2) more than makes up for it," she says.

Lest people think she eats like a bird, Gutierrez swears she eats anything. "In fact, I exercise to eat," she laughs, adding crispy *pata* is her favorite. She only goes easy on sweets as her glucose level tends to shoot up. "We're actually *tabain nga*," she says.

Freckles used to break out on her skin each time she went diving. "I would end up looking haggard," she says. Her dermatologist recommended Imedeen. That was in 1997, and she hasn't looked back since although she has temporarily stopped because of her pregnancy.

"You have to make an effort to look good," says the full-time homemaker. "Never neglect yourself... *May pagkavain kasi ako*," she confesses. "I regularly go to the salon and derma."

Gutierrez says it takes discipline to maintain a youthful glow. She doesn't smoke or drink alcohol. She takes Vitamin C supplements.

"I think the real secret to looking good is having faith in God and keeping a good family life," Gutierrez says.

Teen pretty

Thirty-four-year-old Joanna Marie de Jesus gets a kick out of being mistaken for an older sister of her two teenage daughters. (As of writing, De Jesus is awaiting the birth of her third child.) In fact, people who meet her often think she's a college student. And with good reason.

An Imedeen user for four years, De Jesus no longer finds the need for heavy makeup to enhance her lovely features. The unsightly sunspots and tiny veins on her face have become hardly visible after she started using of Imedeen. Nowadays, powder, lipstick and mascara suffice.

De Jesus has no vices and works out regularly, despite her demanding schedule as assistant vice president of the family-owned RGV Group of Co. and student of interior design, alongside her duties as wife and mother.

No big secrets to looking young for this woman, other than the right mixture of youthful verve and a healthy lifestyle.

Zest for life

When asked about her age, Zina Rosales laughs. "There's a sacred covenant between me and Imedeen—to keep people guessing," she says.

Although she's pushing 50, with two grownup sons, that hasn't kept her from maintaining a youthful glow. "I'm only afraid of three things—death, poverty and old age," she confesses.

A government employee, Rosales swears she doesn't spend much to look good. "Money is hard these days so I resort to cost-cutting measures," following instead Cory Quirino's advice of using things found in the kitchen for her beauty regimen, such as cucumber and oatmeal.

With no maid to do her errands, she does the household chores as part of her exercise, which also includes taebo at home and brisk walking on weekends. She sticks to a low-carb, high-protein diet, and takes supplements like ginkgo biloba and royal jelly.

"I don't like putting gooey stuff on my face," Rosales says, sticking to a simple cleanse-tone-moisturize routine. "I just go to the salon for highlights because I don't have gray hair," she says.

"Growing old doesn't mean life has nothing more to offer," she says. "When a woman has zest for life, she never looks or feels old," she adds. "You don't get depressed, and it affects how people see you. They treat you better."

She admits her husband, Ed, wasn't always thrilled at how she fussed about her looks. But when people started compli-menting him for having a youthful-looking wife, his attitude changed. "People thought he was pampering me and he was taking credit, *maski hindi naman*," she says in jest.

Word and deed

Dr. Daisy Lim-Camitan practices what she preaches.

"Beauty should not just mean the physical part," says the statuesque dermatologist, "but that's what others see first, so you must take good care of yourself." A trendy dresser, she is also fussy about her hairstyle and hygiene.

At 41, she follows a healthy lifestyle that includes having plenty of sleep and drinking at least 2 liters of water daily. "I watch my calorie intake," she says, shunning sweets and fatty food altogether. A mother of two, she maintains her whistle-bait figure by following exercises on VCD.

An Imedeen user way before it was locally available, she says her skin, which used to be dry, has never been suppler. "It was recommended by a friend living abroad eight years ago," she says. "And I don't advise my patients to use products I haven't tried myself," she says.

Lim-Camitan says getting old is no excuse to gain weight and neglect oneself. "If you feel good, you look good," she adds, admitting her husband is her biggest motivation.

"If you have the maturity to show for the years, you shouldn't be afraid of getting old," she advises. "It's all right to have a certain degree of vanity, so long as you don't get obsessed about it and overlook the things that really matter."

REFINEMENT. Like good wine, Dr. Daisy Lim-Camitan gets better with age.

CHARM. Joanna Marie de Jesus is mom to teenage girls—but who could have guessed?

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Smooth, firm and luminous skin from 2 tablets a day

From page F1

look after it. It is built of layers, three to be exact. The top layer is the epidermis, the third layer is the subcutaneous layer and in-between is the dermis.

The epidermis is what you see and what usually prompts you to say, "My, you have good skin—what's your secret?" if it looks flawless. This is where you usually apply creams, lotions and cosmetics.

There is more that goes on between the epidermis and the dermis than just the prefix "epi." When the dermis is in a good condition, the epidermis will always look right. And what keeps the dermis in mint condition are collagen, elastin and specific polysaccharides.

Simply put, the collagen are protein fibers that make the skin firm, the elastin are protein fibers that make the skin elastic and resilient and the multi-syllabled last element is a gel-like substance that keeps in the skin's moisture.

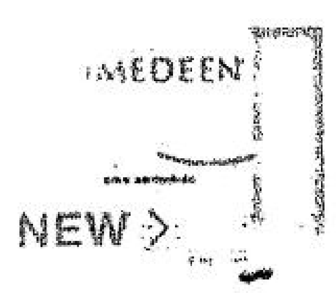
When you're young, your skin has a nice pattern because it has lots of collagen fibers, elastin fibers and the gel-like substance. You skin surface or top layer gets lots of support so your skin looks smooth.

As you get older and expose yourself too much to the sun, something happens to the skin. As painful as it is to hear this, your skin ages and it does so in many different ways.

Human skin ages genetically, for one. Whether you like it or not there are some genes that come through to you and you are very much going to look like one of your parents and have skin like one of your parents.

There is hormonal aging of the skin, too, and for a while there, the rage was to wage battle by using hormones. There isn't a reputable cosmetic house in the world that doesn't make a cream for the hormonal aging of the skin.

Extrinsic aging



The truth is you may have more control over sunlight, pollution, smoking, alcohol, stress, medication, air-conditioning—the culprits that cause extrinsic aging. How fast your skin ages depends on how much you are exposed to these elements. Enemy No. 1 of the skin is the sun. The sun and daylight account for 80 percent of aging but what can we do about that? Whether we like it or not we have to have sun and we need the light.

If you expose yourself too much to light, it has an effect on your skin, especially the skin on your face, unless you're a *burqa* wearer. UVB rays only go into the epidermis. They are what you feel when you get a sunburn. But the UVA rays are something else. They are to be taken seriously because they are the ones that go deepest into the skin, all the way into the dermis. They are actually the ones that age the skin because they have an effect on the collagen and elastin fibers.

When the UV light gets into the skin a chemical reaction happens. Free radicals are produced and they deteriorate the skin on the inside. Free radicals are like Pac Man; they go in and attack not only the elastin and collagen fibers but also the gel-like substance. Before long the structural pattern of the skin completely deteriorates. What happens then? The support is not the same to the epidermis, and the visible skin starts having lines and wrinkle. The skin also gets thicker because it starts to protect itself from the sun, so your skin becomes uneven and leathery.

If you've had oily skin all your life, you don't get very many wrinkles but you get a laxness in your skin, you get droopy around the cheeks. If you've had dry skin, you get plenty of wrinkles, the skin gets thinner and the lines and wrinkles get more visible around your eyes.

Here's where Imedeen Time Perfection comes in. Ferrosan has added an ingredient that can defend the skin from the inside. It goes in and restructures the skin from the inside, protecting the elements in the skin, the collagen and elastin fibers that get degraded by free radicals instead of working from the outside like the usual sun protection product.

In addition to the Biomarine Complex and natural Vitamin C that the original Imedeen has always had, Imedeen Time Perfection is enriched with LycoPhence GS.

Instant defense is provided by LycoPhence GS, an antioxidant from two separate ingredients—Lycopene (the red color in the tomato) and grapeseed extract. It is a special mixture—nobody else has the same mixture. Imedeen has the sole right to this unique mixture all over the world.

Being an ethical company, Ferrosan did a toxicity test on the combination of the grapeseed extract and Lycopene to make sure that together these elements would not do any harm.

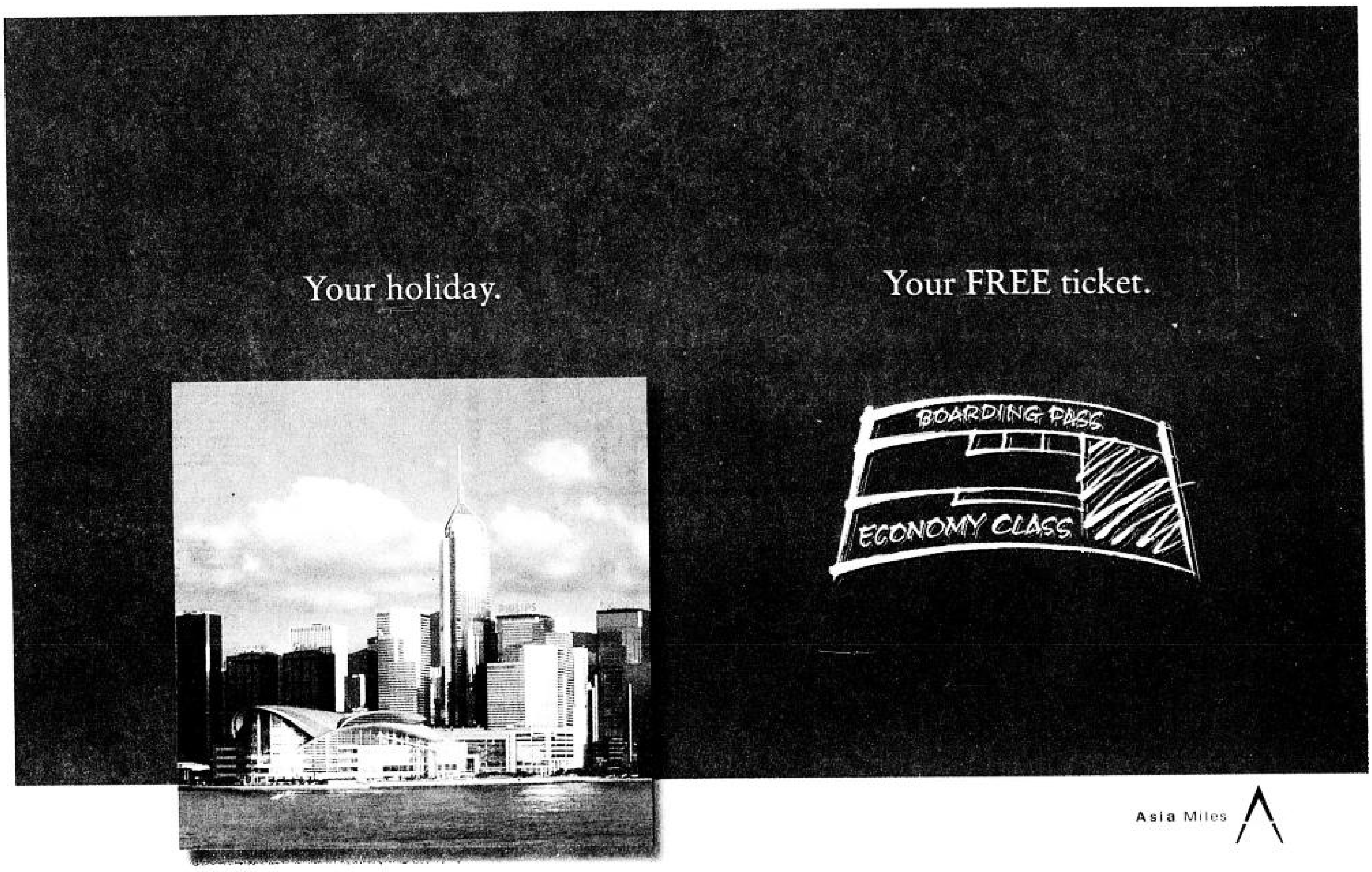
Dual-action Lycopene works in the oily part of the skin and grapeseed extract works on the watery part of the skin.

If Imedeen Classic tablets improve the basic skin structure from the inside, make it smoother and softer, improve its ability to retain moisture, reduce fine lines and wrinkles and give you a clearer, younger-looking complexion, Imedeen Time Perfection tablets also help defend the skin's vital structural elements against future degradation.

The Imedeen product that you have known and is enjoying a huge following in the Philippines, has been renamed Imedeen Classic.

The new Imedeen Time Perfection is expected to be available in the Philippines soon. Both products are distributed by the Bionax Group, an over-the-counter health care marketing operation that prides itself with a range of high-end natural products that bring maximum benefit to the Asia Pacific communities. Imedeen is available at Rustan's, Watson's, Mercury Drug and selected skin clinics.

Chelo Banal-Formoso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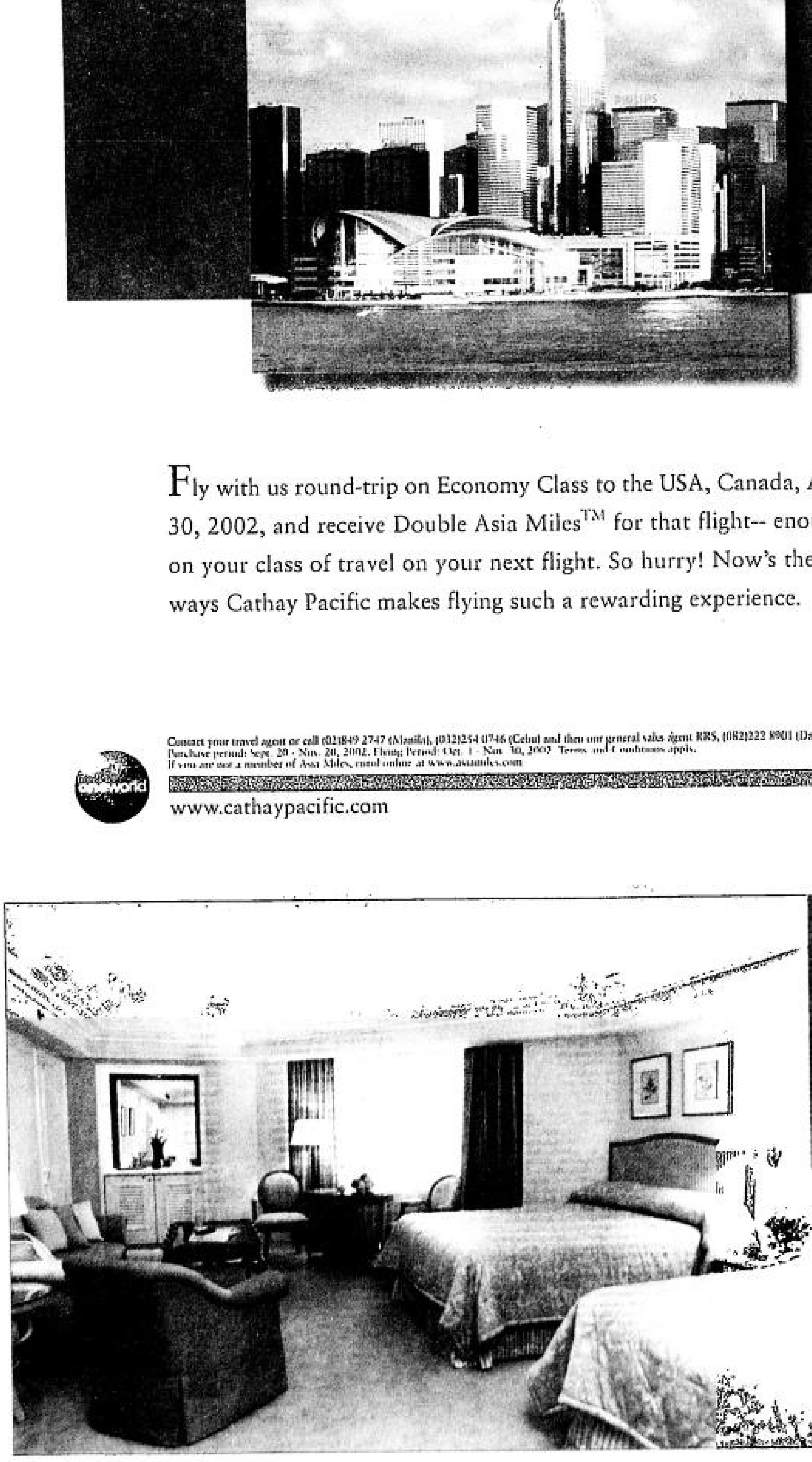

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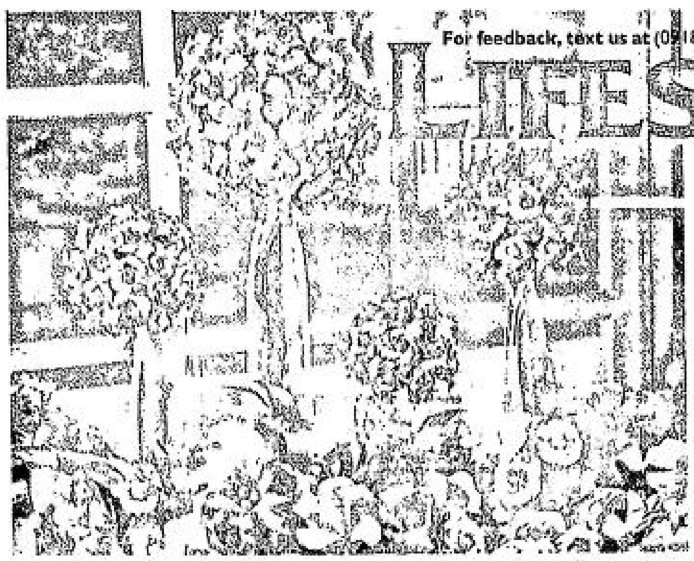
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3890 Series of 2002

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com

LIFESTYLE Home


WOOD shavings in bright colors are handcrafted into flowers.

The best of Negros crafts for the home

Inexhaustibly rich handmade crafts and native wares show the Negrense flair for the beautiful

By Tita V. Giron

WHEN it comes to handmade crafts, traditional food, and products made of natural materials, the folks of the Negros Island are hard to beat. Many of them have been at it for several generations. Negrenses are also by nature artistic and creative.

Name them and we have them, the Negros Association of Producers challenges: ceramics, stoneware, country carved furniture, basket weaves, leather goods, metal crafts, traditional food, home accessories and many more. Proud of their products, Negros producers are showing off the best of their works at the Negros Trade Fair in SM Megamall from Oct. 2-6.

We have had the chance to see some of the products they will be showing at the trade fair. Most of these are housed in a permanent showroom and one-stop shop at the Lourdes Ciocon Building in Bacolod City. The shop has become a tourist landmark, and our guide told us that a visit to Negros would not be complete without seeing the place. At the time we visited, there were mayors from all over the country looking at the products and buying souvenirs. There were also foreigners and *balikbayans* all over the showroom.

Crafts

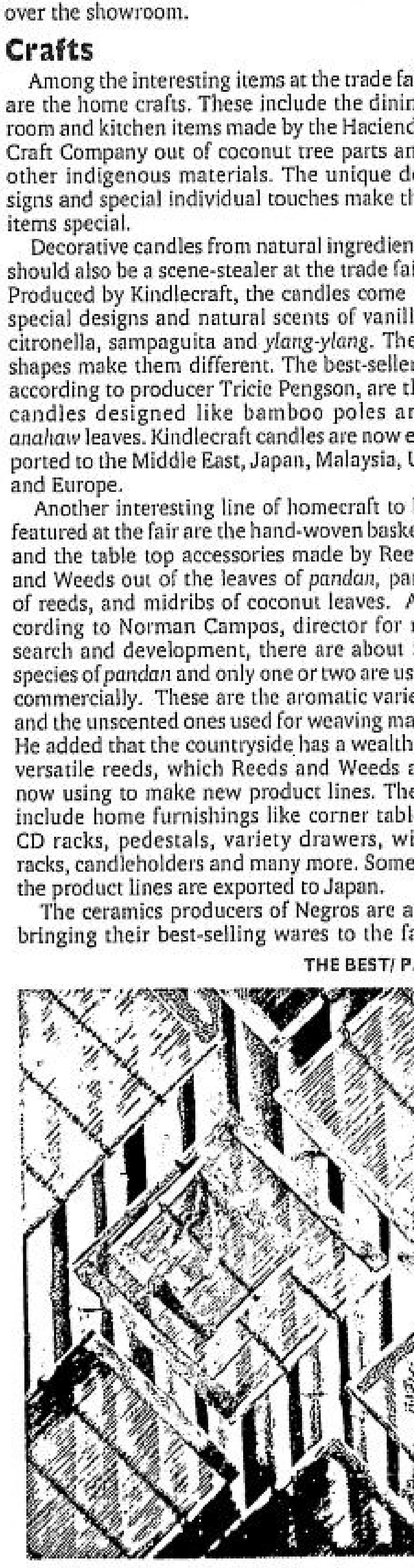
Among the interesting items at the trade fair are the home crafts. These include the dining room and kitchen items made by the Hacienda Craft Company out of coconut tree parts and other indigenous materials. The unique designs and special individual touches make the items special.

Decorative candles from natural ingredients should also be a scene-stealer at the trade fair. Produced by Kindlecraft, the candles come in special designs and natural scents of vanilla, citronella, sampaguita and *ylang-ylang*. Their shapes make them different. The best-sellers, according to producer Tricie Pengson, are the candles designed like bamboo poles and *anahaw* leaves. Kindlecraft candles are now exported to the Middle East, Japan, Malaysia, US and Europe.

Another interesting line of homecraft to be featured at the fair are the hand-woven baskets and the table top accessories made by Reeds and Weeds out of the leaves of *pandan*, parts of reeds, and midribs of coconut leaves. According to Norman Campos, director for research and development, there are about 50 species of *pandan* and only one or two are used commercially. These are the aromatic variety and the unscented ones used for weaving mats. He added that the countryside has a wealth of versatile reeds, which Reeds and Weeds are now using to make new product lines. These include home furnishings like corner tables, CD racks, pedestals, variety drawers, wine racks, candleholders and many more. Some of the product lines are exported to Japan.

The ceramics producers of Negros are also bringing their best-selling wares to the fair.

THE BEST/ P.G3


TABLETOP items made of bamboo

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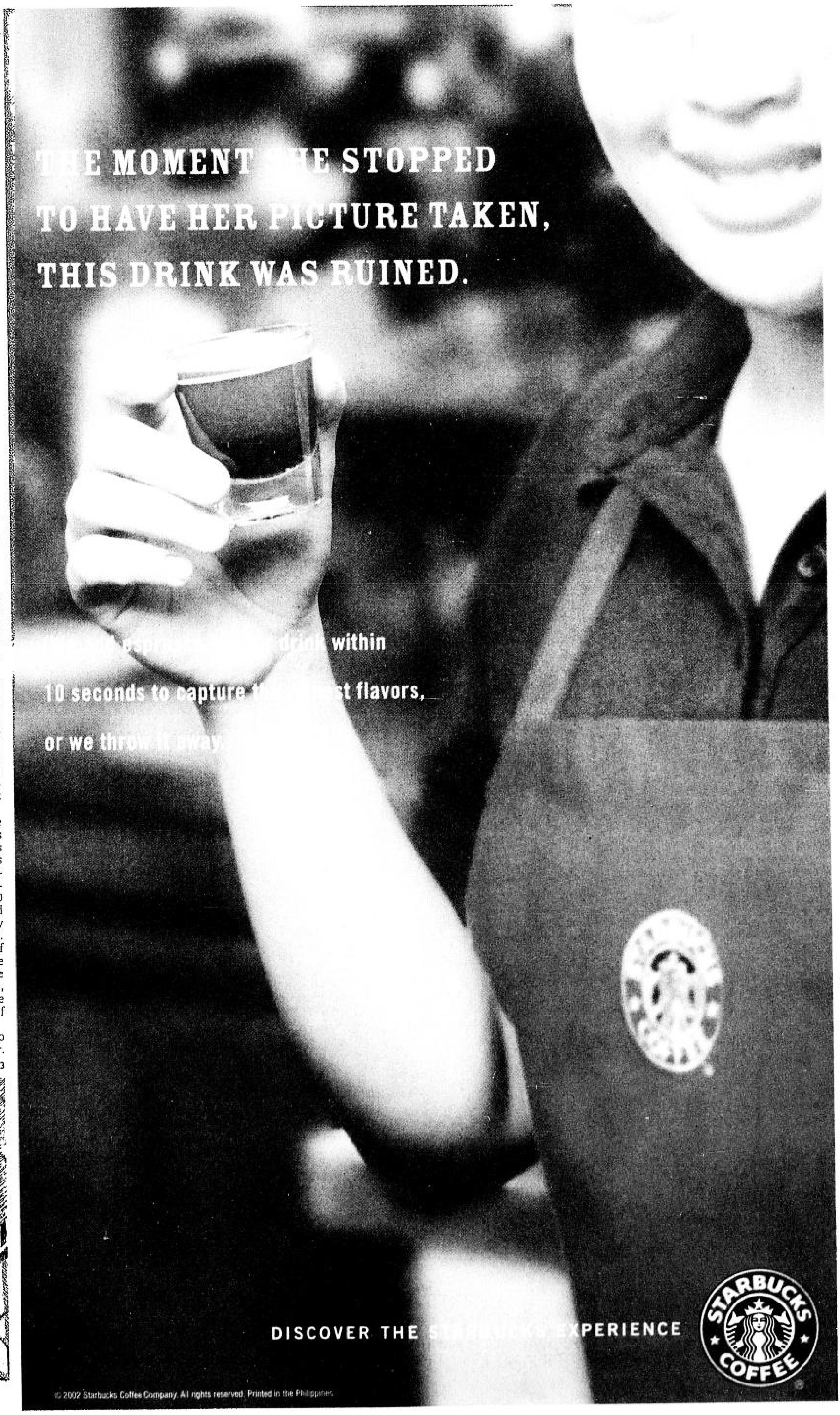
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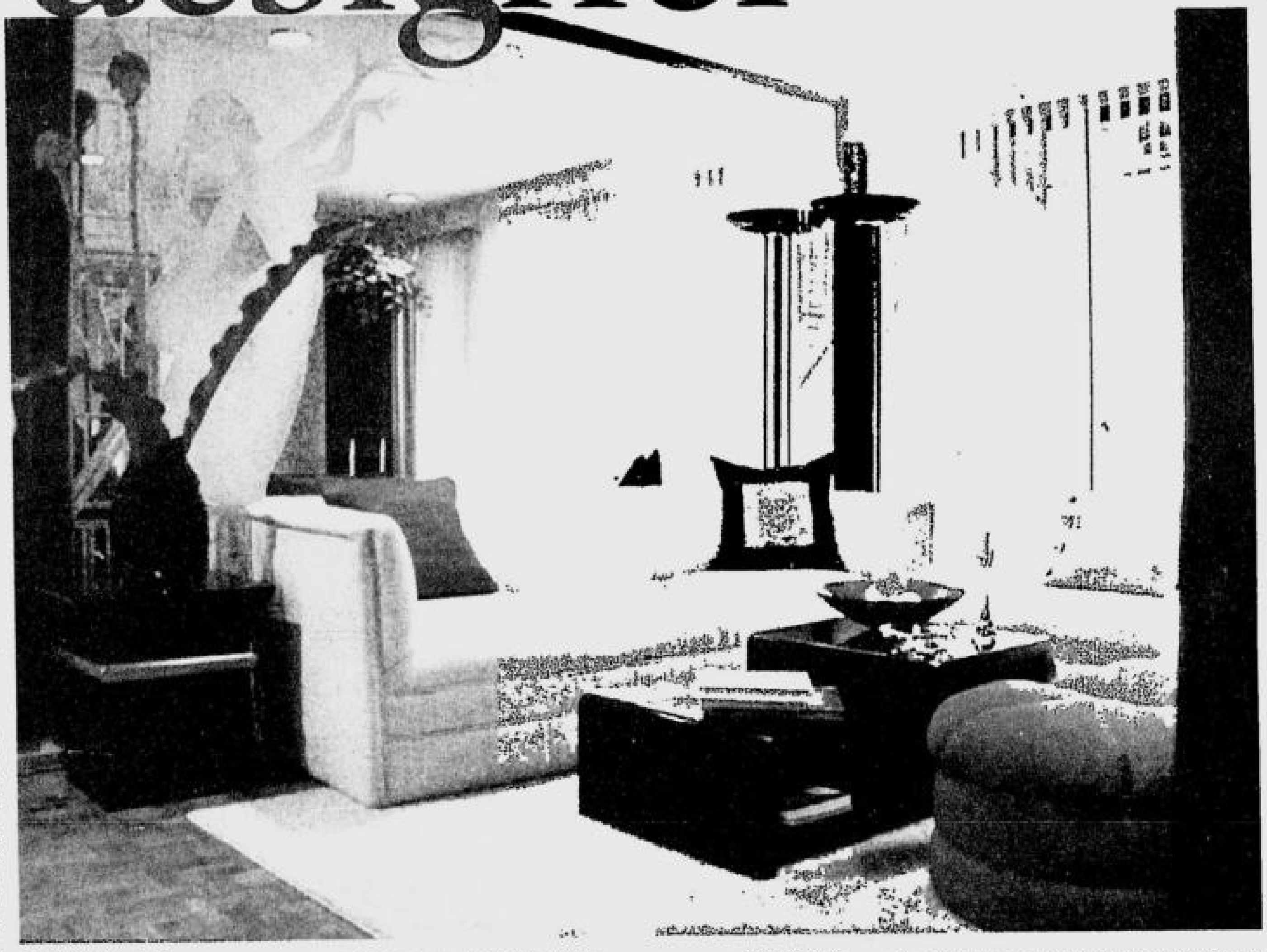
CARMI'S dresser is perhaps the only clue that a star lives here.

DOUBLE exposure in the guestroom

COMFORT above all else

A star is reborn as an interior designer

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina



CARMI Martin's living room exudes warmth and comfort with its clean, unfussy lines.

CARMI Martin is probably way ahead of her time as an interior designer. While almost everyone else opted for an ornate home in the ostentatious '80s, the actress chose to go "contemporary minimalist" in her Makati townhouse.

Carmi began to dabble in interior design during her salad days in show biz, years before she started to pursue it seriously by enrolling in a certificate course at the Philippine School of Interior Design. Friends never failed to notice her townhouse's mainly white interiors every time she hosted parties.

"They were surprised to find out that I did the place myself," says the erstwhile bombshell. "They complimented me for my taste. Of course, for someone who had no formal training back then, I was flattered."

For ten years, Carmi called the two-bedroom affair home until she moved to Quezon City in 1998 and had it rented out. "I wanted to be as near as possible to the studios," she explains of her big move. "But somehow I longed for the peace and quiet my old place offered."

Unchanged

After four years of living in what claims to be the country's show biz capital, Carmi moved back to her two-story pad in Makati four months ago. Except for the wallpaper and reupholstered leather sofa in the living room, the place has remained basically the same. This time, she eschewed white in favor of beige, a warmer shade that provides a more subtle contrast to the living room's dark wooden furniture pieces and parquet flooring.

A huge mirror etched with a female figure provides the living room with an illusion of space even as it offers a hint of the home's owner. "The mirror was my idea," she says, "but the image was not inspired by me."

The same can't be said of Isabel Diaz's acrylic painting in the dining area. After Carmi saw what Diaz did for friends Eva Abesamis and Anna Lagdameo, she asked the painter to do a portrait of her as well. In the portrait, Carmi is dressed in a pair of faded denim shorts and sheer white blouse that leaves little to the imagination.

Lest you get the wrong idea, however, Carmi insists that only the painting's face, not the body, belongs to her. She didn't pose for Diaz, but instead provided the artist with her picture. "I try to explain to guests that it's not me, but Isabel's interpretation of me."

When Carmi experienced a change of heart several years ago, she brought the painting back to Diaz for a few minor touchups. Thus, the portrait's chest is no longer as revealing as it was before.

Another work of art by the foyer, a sculpture of a woman's face by an unnamed artist, also bears a striking resemblance to Carmi. Again, the similarity is purely coincidental. "I love to surround myself with art," she says. "I just haven't had the time to sit down and collect them. If given a chance, I'd go for artworks of famous artists."

Profusion of colors

Aside from a work by Malang, Carmi owns several paintings by unknown Filipino artists. A profusion of colors is evident in all the artworks by the stairs and second-floor walls leading to the bedrooms.

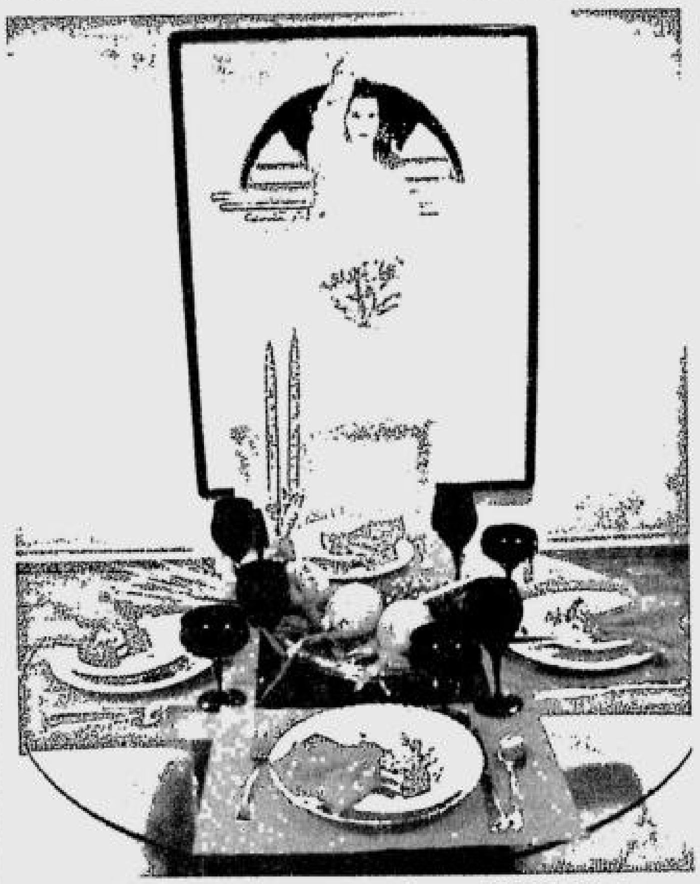
She turned an open-air veranda in the master bedroom into a mini office by enclosing the area in glass and Roman shades. A European-inspired writing table occupies one end of the area, while a computer sits on the other end. "If I can help it, I do most of my school work within the comforts of my bedroom," says Carmi, who has to complete 36 more units to graduate.

A dresser with a mirror framed by a series of light bulbs is perhaps the only item in her private sanctum that reminds you of the occupant's profession. Carmi designed the vanity piece herself, inspired of course, by the real thing found in a studio's dressing room. Again, restraint dominates the few furniture pieces found in her bedroom and guestroom.

Despite the minimalist look of Carmi Martin's home, it's undeniable that a real star and future interior designer lives there.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

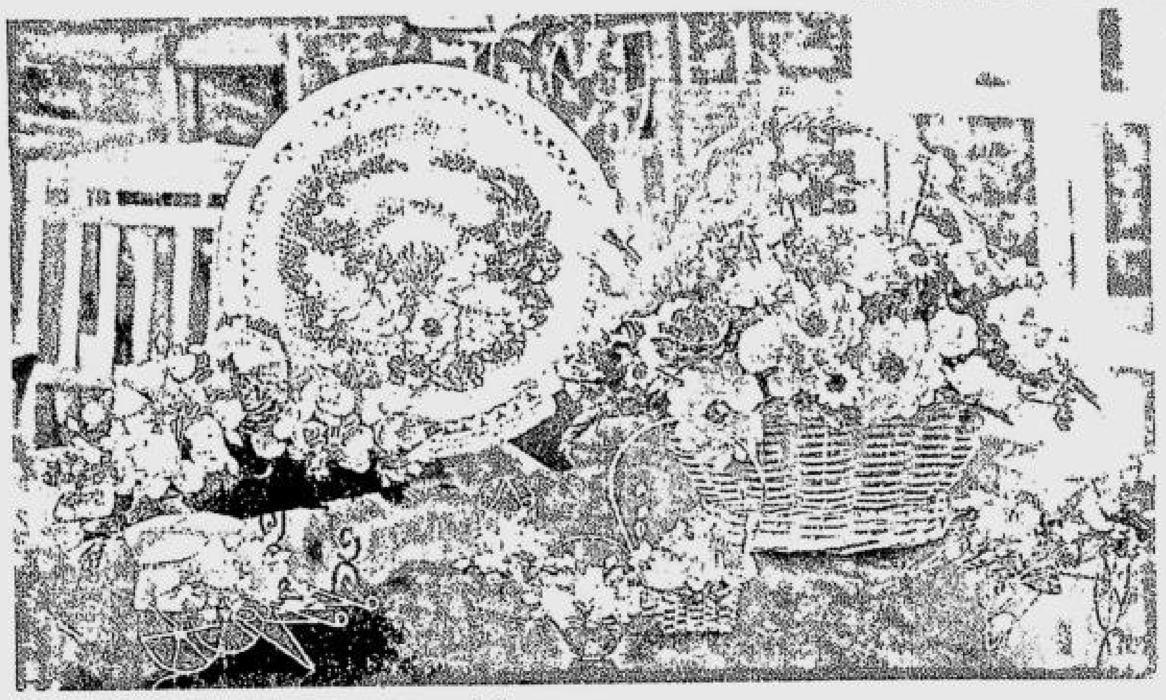
A dresser with a mirror framed by a series of light bulbs is perhaps the only item in Carmi's private sanctum that reminds you of the occupant's profession



ISABEL Diaz's acrylic rendition of the former bombshell

THE STUDENT'S writing desk, where many of her term papers and plates are made.

CARMI was already into minimalism, as seen from this cabinet, even before the look came into vogue.



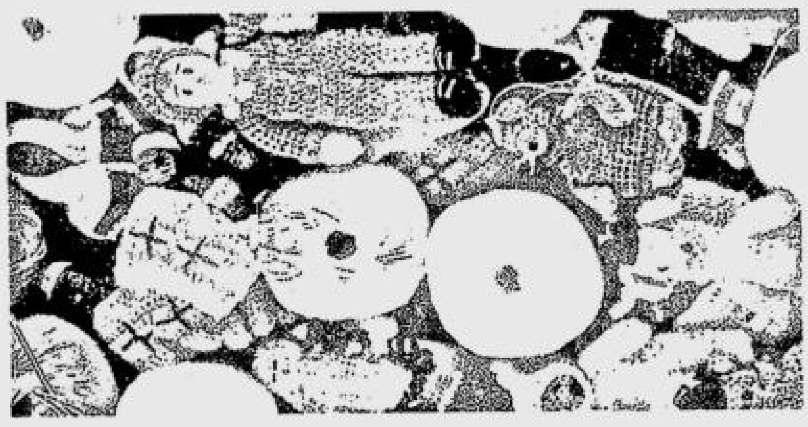
ASSORTED crafts and wares created from shells

AN ASSORTMENT of scented wax accented with handmade decorative ceramics

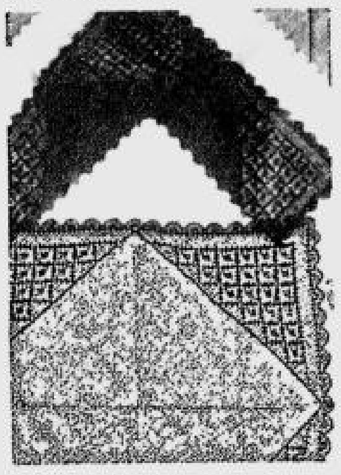
The best of Negros crafts for the home

From page G1

These will include candleholders, fruit trays, vases, and pots. And lest we forget, the "poetry in clay" selections of Millie Kilayco and partners will be interesting to see. In addition to the ceramics, Kilayco and partners in the Negrense Island Inc. will show items selected from island producers. Besides home accessories and furniture, the group will bring traditional dishes.



HAND-CROCHETED from cotton yarn



FINELY crocheted and crafted by hand

A SPECTRUM of colors delicately smocked and embroidered by hand

Hand-embroidered garments

Another potential scene-stealer at the fair is the collection of smocked and embroidered garments, especially the children's clothes of Isabel Valles Lovina. All done by hand, the embroidery and hand-smocking are vintage arts that date back to the 17th century when Spanish nuns and women taught the sewing arts to the young girls and women of Negros. Isabel disclosed that she learned the art of sewing clothes and embroidery from her grandmother Doña Monserrat Viaplana.

All hand-embroidered and hand-smocked, the children's garments come under the brand name VicMik. Everyday wear are made of cotton while the dresses for special occasions are fashioned out of more expensive natural fabrics, including the beautiful Indian fabric called Dupione silk.

Sugar crafts

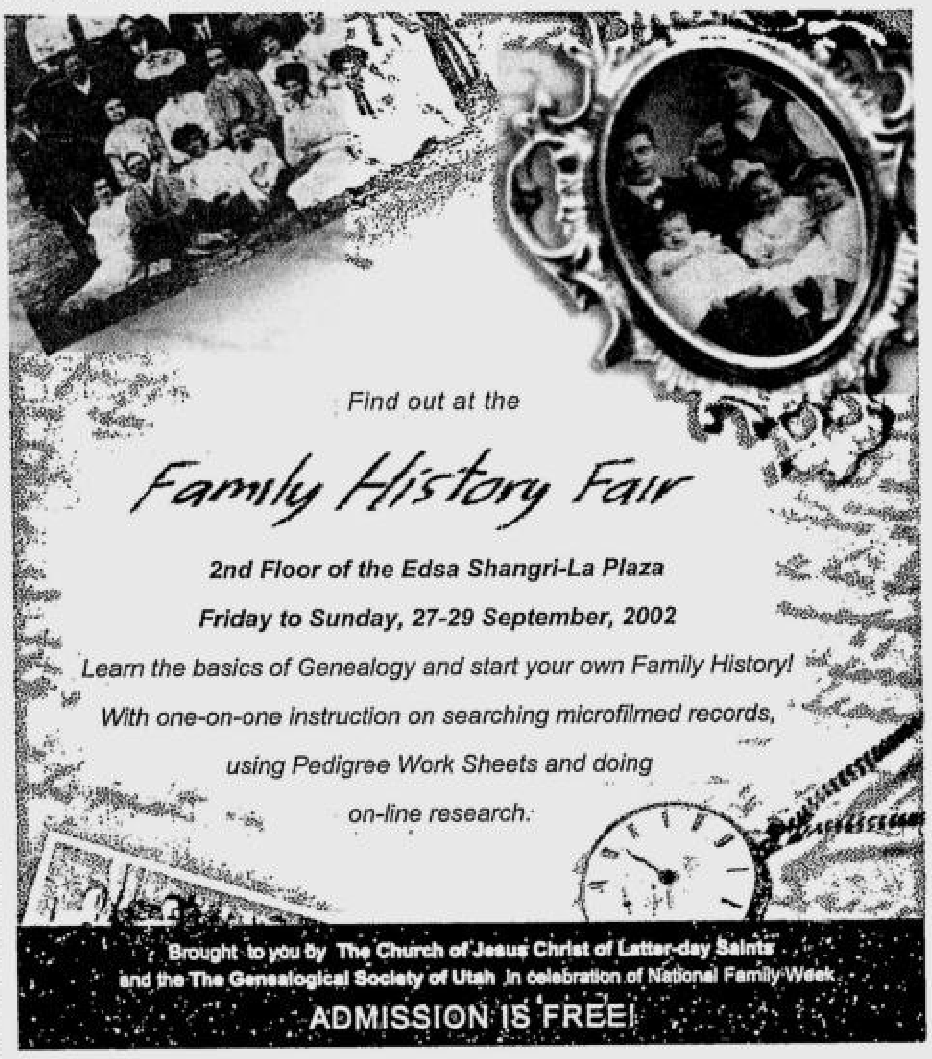
Now on its 15th year, the Negros trade fair will also feature the native delicacies, traditional dishes, and the famous *mascobado* sugar of the Negrenses. Expect to have a taste of *piyaya, pinasugbo, butung-butong, inday-inday, ibos, bayi-bayi,* and many more.

The first day will start with the exclusive buyers' meet in the morning. This is the time when buyers and their agents mill around the exhibit area and make their wholesale orders for the market. After that, the fair will be open to the public.

Negrenses have another driving reason to visit the fair, and that's not just because they're homesick for the taste of native products. To most of them, the fair has become a yearly reunion of Negrenses from all over.

GIFTS of nature in decorative ceramic

A STYLISH combination of leather and woven fabric



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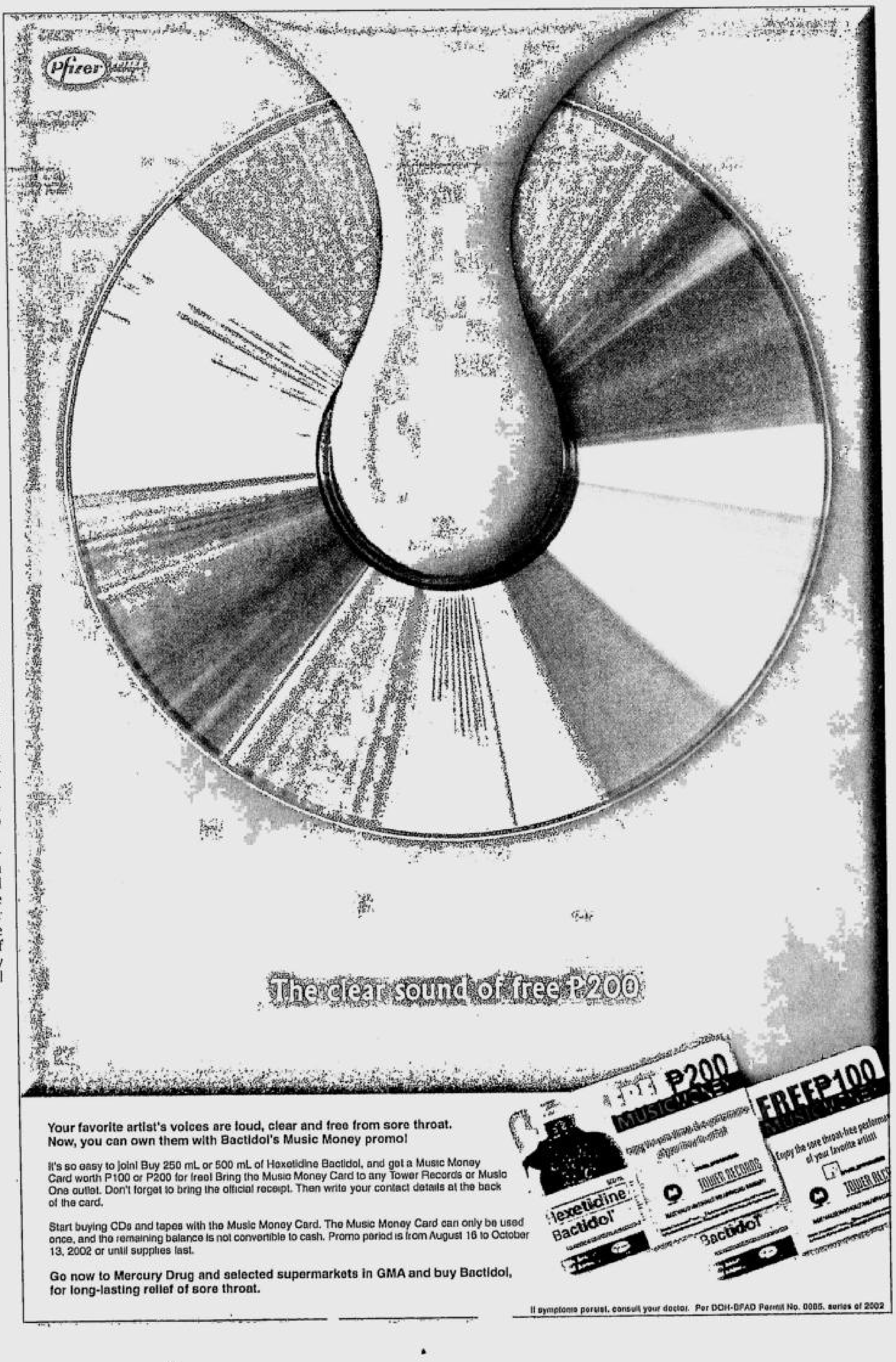

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Low-cost stove may help solve garbage problem

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

DANIEL Rodriguez of the city of Calamba informs us of a stove that he has invented, which, he says, will solve our garbage disposal problem and benefit low-income families at the same time.

The stove, he says, is fueled by parts of the coconut such as coconut shells and husks, as well as saw dust, empty carton boxes, dried fruit peelings and vegetable refuse from home kitchens.

He says the stove is made of steel tubes from junk shops. It measures 20 inches in height and 10 inches in width, and would cost P150 to P200 a piece. Rodriguez says it could become the standard stove for low-income rural and urban families, both here and abroad. Once people start using as fuel the materials mentioned, only non-biodegradable items—plastics, bottles and cans—will be thrown into dumpsites or recycled for new uses.

"With the use of this stove, an LPG gas tank (costing about P250) could last for three months" resulting in substantial savings. "For a poor family," he adds, "the amount saved could send a child to school in the elementary level."

While we hope Rodriguez gives us more detailed information on how his stove works, he has made tapes of the stove precisely for that purpose. Interested parties may contact him at 238 Lecheria, Calamba City, 4027 Laguna, tel. (0919) 289-4024, or through Lita Larino, tel. (0919) 597-3718.

Funds for Raul Zapatos

After we came out in this column with the story of forest guard Raul Zapatos (PDI Lifestyle, 05/10/02), now detained at the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa for what many believe are unfair charges (he was merely performing his duty and defending himself), some people wrote to express their concern. D.D. of Pampanga sent P1,000 and another, J.C. of Dumaguete, P20. As we do not have their permission to reveal their full names, we are using only their initials and where they are from.

D.D. considers Zapatos a "hero, a loyal and brave DENR Strike Force Team leader [who] deserves to get all the support and aid, not only of all God-loving countrymen but, more importantly, the entire machinery of government."

As there were events that took precedence over our activities these past several months, we are a little late in acknowledging and reporting this sidelight of the Raul Zapatos case, for which we apologize. Sr. Ma. Aida Velasquez, OSB, of Lingkod Tao Kalikasan, who was our primary source of information regarding Zapatos, is set to visit the forest guard in Muntinlupa with some members of her group sometime this month. We are thus sending the funds and letters for him through her. We thank D.D. and J.C. for their kindness.

CEAE Update

Jukka Holopainen, executive director and founder of the Center for Environmental Awareness Education (CEAE), sent an e-mail explaining why his organization was currently in need of volunteers.

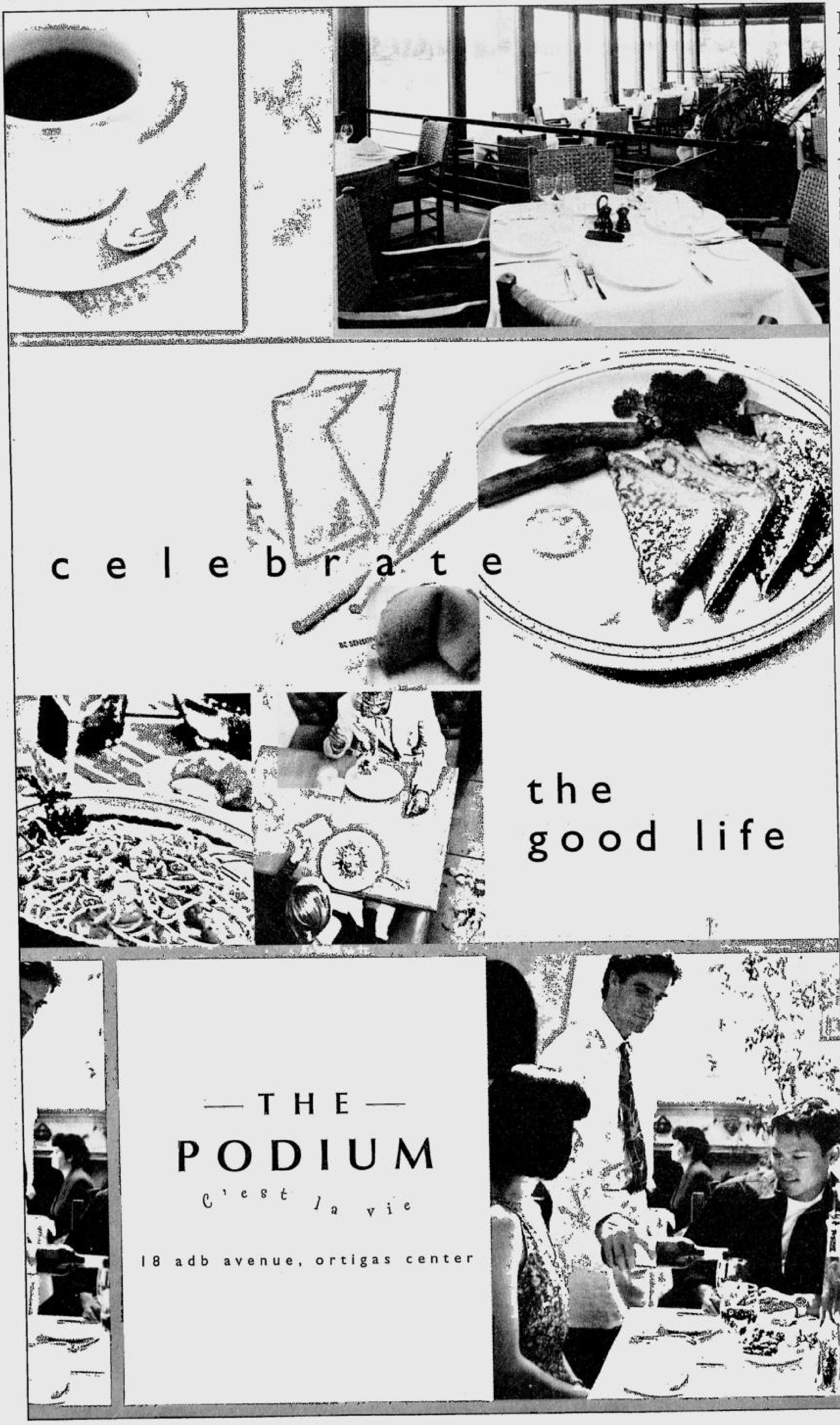
CEAE conducts training-seminars and workshops for teachers in the elementary and high school levels, using two books that provide lessons, even lesson plans and teaching aids, for integration with other subjects. The books are Project Water Education for Teachers (WET) and Project Learning Tree.

CEAE has conducted successful workshops and seminars in different parts of the country that its staff now sees the need to revise the books to adapt to Philippine conditions and situations. So Holopainen writes:

"We have concentrated on water education for 2002. We plan to conduct training seminars in the NCR. We also hope that more training seminars will take place in other regions of the country... Our next training site will be at the Ateneo on Sept. 28. (Those interested may contact Holopainen at tel. 899-5660).

"We are also undergoing a 'Filipinization' program for Project WET and we had a successful workshop recently, also at the Ateneo. Bong Socco of the Piso para sa Pasig Program helped us a lot in this. Many new programs are [being drawn up]. We are planning this new website that will cater to water education."

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com



RP hosts international bonsai and stone meeting

THE PHILIPPINES will host the 7th Asia-Pacific Bonsai and Suiseki Exhibition and Convention (Aspac) 2003, to be held at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong, Feb. 27 to March 2, 2003.

The event is dubbed "Trees and Stones...in Harmony."

Aspac is the umbrella organization of societies of bonsai growers and collectors of natural stones from the Asia-Pacific countries (Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Australia and India), as well as Europe and the United States.

The joint exhibition-convention is being hosted by the Philippine Bonsai Society Inc. headed by Willi D. Hahn; the Natural Stone (Suiseki) Society of the Philippines Inc. headed by Felicidad S. Gupit; and Aspac 2003 project chair David Du. Supporting the event are the Department of Tourism, Philippine Conventions and Visitors Corp., Department of Agriculture and Philippine Airlines, as well as several private organizations and individual benefactors.

The four-day exhibit will feature collections and demonstrations by foreign and Filipino masters of the various forms of growing bonsai or miniaturized trees and the artistic display of natural stones or suiseki. Main features of the event will be the Bonsai and Suiseki Gallery, a special display and competition with over 500 Philippine bonsai and suiseki entries, and the art show, "Bonsai and Suiseki on Canvas," by Filipino painters.

A commercial area will sell plants, stones, display stands, tools and materials, and provide a venue for companies and individuals who may wish to meet other participants.

Registration for the convention and reservations for commercial booths is now open. Contact Tradeshow International Inc., Unit 106 Chateau Verde Condominium, Gate 2, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City 1600, at tel. 671-8381/82 and 671-3122, or fax to 671-8382, e-mail info@tradeshow.com.ph or visit www.tradeshow.com.ph. Deadline for convention registration is Dec. 10, while for commercial booth applications, Dec. 15.

PSID pays tribute to design leaders

INTERIOR designer Mike Pizarro will be one of the 35 personalities that the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) advanced class 2002 will be paying tribute to in the exhibit "Tribute: An Affair in Black and White," slated from Oct. 2 to 31 at the LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati.

The exhibit will showcase 35 booths of 20 sq m each, which will represent living spaces such as bedrooms, bathrooms, office space, prayer room, even a bar and café, each inspired by the honorees. "Tribute" will center on 35 different types and looks of interiors done in black and white that will be viewed achromatically in different textures, scales and proportions.

The exhibit is also going to be a trek through time—from 1967, when PSID was born, to the present. The audience will be taken through a virtual history of the school, its past, its people and its products—the graduating students of 2002.

Among the honorees are: PSID founders Agustin Cancio and Edith Oliveros, Herminia Cancio Layug, architects Lor Calma and Gene Flancia; interior designers Manny Castro, Nardy Aquino, Jhun Alday, Leo Almeria, Nicky Magcase, Opat Hermano, Mita Colet, Leo Yao; furniture designer Carlo Ferrera, PSID faculty Jie Pambid, retailer Ben Chan, design educators Jocelyn Montemayor, Cora Oliveros and Rosemarie Bautista; potter Tessie PettyJohn, civic worker Olga Severino-Martel, Tita del Rosario, Boy King Cuneta, Mel Andino, Paz Abad Santos, Sr. Precita Aseheros, Marion Coscoluella, Ogie Periquet, Caroline Pinky de los Reyes, John Oyek, Valen Ang, Edong Lazatin, Zenaida Manlapig, and PSID personnel Elsie Petrola and Diding Servidad.

Pana
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4 YEARS

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TODAY, we celebrate the 44th year of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana). Empowering a growing number of advertisers and communicators believing in the same values that the Association espouses: for the love of God and every Filipino family. Catalyzing them for the benefit of not only the country but more importantly, the consumers in their headlong pursuit of a better life.

We all beam with pride that an organization such as this has become an important highlight in our marketing professions. From its humble beginnings 44 years ago, it has tremendously grown to a total of 316 members and 33 affiliates—a living testament to the hallmark of unity that the Association is highly known for.

Our sense of belonging seems to be the key factor why more and more are coming to join the fray. While our products and services are healthy competitors in the marketplace, we in this Association are undoubtedly one in spirit. We are more than a network; we are a community. We are more than business contracts; we are partners. We are more than colleagues; we are friends. This camaraderie permeating has become a continual source of energy that breathes renewed vigor and commitment to the nation that calls for united hands and major players of its economic development.

We influence millions of consumers from all walks of life. Despite our various messages seen and heard from all mediums possible—television, radio, print and now the Internet and mobile—it is Pana who transforms these myriads into one powerful voice that promotes choices—choices that afford them to exercise their right to be free and be respected regardless of whatever choices they make.

Pana's "Truth in Advertising" philosophy is a perfect summing of the vision we shall continue to uphold. Our very own marketing efforts will always be guided with this like a beacon of light as we tread in our paths. We will remain advocates of the truth and say only what is true, noble and beneficial to the many lives in our society.

Pana has definitely come a long way in building relationships among colleagues in the industry. As Pana president, let me applaud my fellow Pana colleagues, and the 2002 officers and directors, for their hard work, selfless commitment and dedication to the Association. Here's to a more wonderful and fruitful year.

(*Sgd.*)CARMINIA B. RODRIGUEZ
2002 President
Philippine Association of National Advertisers

Messages

I EXTEND my cordial greetings to the members of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) on your 44th Anniversary Celebration.

Integrity, professionalism, and excellence are the underlying values that Pana has resolutely espoused for 44 years. I commend the members of your organization for their continued efforts to enhance the Philippines' competitive edge among our neighbors in this industry.

Current global market conditions serve as an impetus and a challenge to reinforce the strategies and opportunities that will continue to strengthen Philippine advertising and the business sector. I believe that, with your participation, we will be able to achieve more economic milestones in the future.

The advertising industry has been a constant contributor to Philippine economic growth and I wish to congratulate as you celebrate 44 years of responsible and creative advertising. The administration is one with you in creating a climate conducive to business and progress in our society.

Mabuhay at maraming salamat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

MY WARMEST felicitations to the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) on its 44th year of uplifting the standards and practices of advertising.

Advertising is an essential factor in the marketing of services and goods and, consequently, plays an important role in the country's economy. I commend this eminent association of distinguished advertisers for its steadfast commitment to cultivate public confidence through the promotion of truth in advertising and by calling attention to practices, which tend to undermine that confidence. Since its establishment in 1958, Pana has metamorphosed into a potent force in the country's economic progress.

Pana, formed by advertisers for advertisers, is the only organization in the country that unites the users of advertising. The list of its many achievements includes spearheading the establishment of the Advertising Board of the Philippines, the Audit Council for print media, as well as organizing the Radio Research Council and Television Research Council.

May this event inspire you to improve your advertising knowledge and level of professionalism. I exhort the members of this organization to continue working towards the improvement of national advertising, as this will certainly contribute to the betterment of the nation.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA JR
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

MOTOROLA
intelligence everywhere
Sport it. Flaunt it. Go with it. The new V70 has an iconoclastic design that includes a 360 degree rotating cover and an Motorola keypad. All in an ultra compact package.
V70
ICONOMOTO

ABS-CBN

CONGRATULATES
PANA
ON ITS 44TH
ANNIVERSARY

Why should you join Pana?

THE COMBINED Pana membership of more than 326 companies, spending the equivalent of more than 85 percent of total national advertising expenditure gives the Association tremendous collective strength, and thereby a strong voice, within and outside the advertising industry. Such united strength can never be matched by any amount of individual effort.

As an organization, the Association speaks for and represents members at industry and government meetings and discussions where the interest of the national advertisers are involved.

Pana has always maintained that self-regulation is the best form of regulation for the industry, as opposed to government controls. The Association has adopted the Code of Ethics, Rules and Regulation for Advertising and Sales Promotions of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and made its strict adoption a condition of membership.

Through seminars, workshops and open forum discussions which the Association initiates or co-sponsors with other allied groups in the industry. Pana provides excellent opportunities for members to exchange experiences and ideas and to improve their advertising knowledge and level of professionalism.

The Association generally opposes any types of controls that restrict or repress the rights and freedom of advertisers in government liaison.

One of the most valuable benefits of Pana membership is personal contacts and fellowship which members are able to develop with their fellow members and between people in media and advertising agencies.

Founded on professionalism and camaraderie

THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers, a non-profit, non-stock organization, was established in 1958 when some national advertisers got together to discuss the common problems and shortcomings of local advertising practice and the need for a body that would protect the interests of the national advertisers.

Pana is founded on four basic principles:

- The belief that advertising is an essential factor in the marketing of goods and services and, consequently, is an important factor in the economic life of the country;
- The belief that the interests of consumers should be the primary concern of advertisers and in case of conflict, the interest of the consumer should prevail;
- The belief that public confidence in advertising and advertised goods and services should be promoted and protected, and therefore any practices that tend to undermine the confidence should be prevented or corrected;
- The belief in the upliftment of the standards and practices of advertising.

Formed by advertisers for advertisers, Pana is the only organization in the country that unites the users of advertising. Its member companies comprise every major industry in the country. These companies represent a combined advertising expenditure estimated to exceed 85 percent of all national advertising in major media.

The first attempt after the war to organize those in the advertising field came with the founding of the old Advertising Club, which was conceived in 1947 and organized a year later. The membership in the Advertising Club was composed of advertisers, media representatives, agency, people, and others in related fields.

The Advertising Club, because of the diverse interests of its members, and because it was more of a social club than a professional organization, was dissolved in 1951.

It was not until 1956, when Robert Hinchman Jr. arrived in the Philippines as advertising manager of Caltex, that he and Anacleto del Rosario took an active interest in getting advertising practitioners to form an organization patterned after the US Association of National Advertisers. Their efforts resulted in an organizational meeting held on Oct. 15, 1957 at the Old Manila Overseas Press Club on Dewey Boulevard near the American Embassy. The meeting, attended by 45 representatives from various businesses, established the urgency of organizing the Pana.

The organization of Pana was carried out by a steering committee, later on called the organization committee composed of Anacleto del Rosario of Del Rosario Bros. Inc., Robert Hinchman Jr of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., Jesus T. Tanchanco of United Drug Co., Carl Van Hoven of Meralco, HD Brown of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, JK Lowry Jr of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., CW Newmann of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., R. Pertierra Jr. of Williams Equipment, Gerardo Roces of Philippine Air Lines, Nestor Trapaga of Franklin Baker Co. of the Philippines, M. Vangelle of Eternit Corp., and JD Janzon of Insular Life-FGU Insurance.

On Jan. 30, 1958, the Philippine Association of National Advertisers was born in a general meeting of representatives from 42 companies, which elected the association's 11-member board of directors.

ALL ABOARD!

PhilHealth
WG&A
Kenny Rogers Roasters
PLDT
Enchanted Kingdom
CAMELLA HOMES
BURGER KING
SMART
PERFETTI Van Melle
Jollibee
MOTOROLA
SolidService
DUNKIN' DONUTS
GLOBE TELECOM
greenwich
CENTRO ESCOLAR UNIVERSITY
citibank
Rustan
AMA Education System
GE Appliances
Shakey's
Nestle
CALTEX
METROBANK

More than 50 top companies have placed ads in Libre.
What do they know that you don't?

Aimed at 600,000 working class commuters of LRT and MRT, Inquirer Libre provides a captive audience with the time to read news and advertising messages. With its crisp, exciting articles and handy size, these early morning commuters no longer sleep or do nothing inside the train. When they get off the train, they pass on their copies to officemates, friends and other family members, thus, extending the reach of the paper. But the best thing about Libre is that it is FREE. Making it perhaps the most captivating thing in transit.

The companies on board took the right vehicle to reach their market: Libre. So, what are you waiting for? Climb on board. For info on ad rates and other inquiries, call Izelle Medina (0918) 443-0941 or Jenny Rockwell (0917) 273-4103 to reserve your seat.

We've captured your market. Libre

2002 PANA Officers and Board of Directors

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING YEARS

CARMINA B. RODRIGUEZ
President
Citibank, N.A.

A.G. ALCANTARA JR.
Vice President
Asia Brewery Inc.

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Adidas Philippines Inc.
Director

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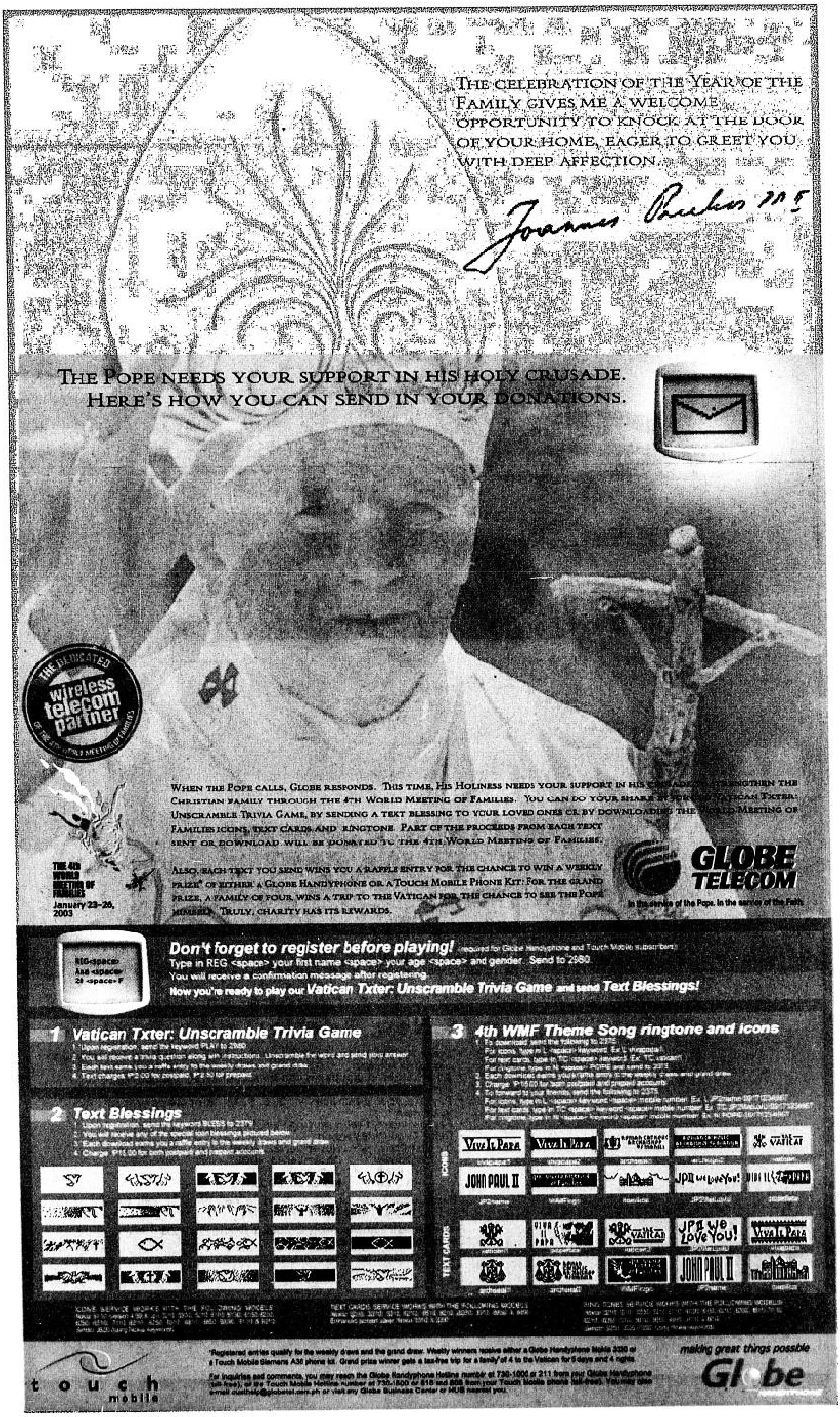
Director

DR. NONIE AZARCON, DBA
Executive Director


THE CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY GIVES ME A WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO KNOCK AT THE DOOR OF YOUR HOME, EAGER TO GREET YOU WITH DEEP AFFECTION.

Joannes Paulus PP. II

THE POPE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT IN HIS HOLY CRUSADE.
HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SEND IN YOUR DONATIONS.

WHEN THE POPE CALLS, GLOBE RESPONDS. THIS TIME, HIS HOLINESS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT IN HIS CRUSADE TO STRENGTHEN THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY THROUGH THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES. YOU CAN DO YOUR SHARE BY JOINING VATICAN TXTER: UNSCRAMBLE TRIVIA GAME, BY SENDING A TEXT BLESSING TO YOUR LOVED ONES OR BY DOWNLOADING THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES ICONS, TEXT CARDS AND RINGTONE. PART OF THE PROCEEDS FROM EACH TEXT SENT OR DOWNLOAD WILL BE DONATED TO THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES.

ALSO, EACH TEXT YOU SEND WINS YOU A RAFFLE ENTRY FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN A WEEKLY PRIZE* OF EITHER A GLOBE HANDYPHONE OR A TOUCH MOBILE PHONE KIT. FOR THE GRAND PRIZE, A FAMILY OF FOUR WINS A TRIP TO THE VATICAN FOR THE CHANCE TO SEE THE POPE HIMSELF. TRULY, CHARITY HAS ITS REWARDS.

THE 4th WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES
January 23-26, 2003

GLOBE TELECOM
In the service of the Pope. In the service of the Faith.

Don't forget to register before playing! (required for Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile subscribers)
Type in REG <space> your first name <space> your age <space> and gender. Send to 2980.
You will receive a confirmation message after registering.
Now you're ready to play our Vatican Txter: Unscramble Trivia Game and send Text Blessings!

REG<space> Ana <space> 20 <space> F

1 Vatican Txter: Unscramble Trivia Game
1. Upon registration, send the keyword PLAY to 2980
2. You will receive a trivia question along with instructions. Unscramble the word and send your answer.
3. Each text earns you a raffle entry to the weekly draws and grand draw.
4. Text charges: ₱2.00 for postpaid, ₱2.50 for prepaid.

2 Text Blessings
1. Upon registration, send the keyword BLESS to 2379
2. You will receive any of the special icon blessings pictured below.
3. Each download earns you a raffle entry to the weekly draws and grand draw.
4. Charge: ₱15.00 for both postpaid and prepaid accounts.

3 4th WMF Theme Song ringtone and icons
1. To download, send the following to 2375:
For ringtone, type in N <space> POPE and send to 2375
2. Each download earns you a raffle entry to the weekly draws and grand draw.
3. Charge: ₱15.00 for both postpaid and prepaid accounts.
4. To forward to your friends, send the following to 2375:

ICONS
TEXT CARDS

ICONS SERVICE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODELS
TEXT CARDS SERVICE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODELS
RING TONES SERVICE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODELS

*Registered entries qualify for the weekly draws and the grand draw. Weekly winners receive either a Globe Handyphone Nokia 3330 or a Touch Mobile Siemens A36 phone kit. Grand prize winner gets a tax-free trip for a family of 4 to the Vatican for 5 days and 4 nights.

For inquiries and comments, you may reach the Globe Handyphone Hotline number at 730-1000 or 211 from your Globe Handyphone (toll-free), or the Touch Mobile Hotline number at 730-1500 or 818 and 808 from your Touch Mobile phone (toll-free). You may also e-mail custhelp@globetel.com.ph or visit any Globe Business Center or HUB nearest you.

touch mobile

making great things possible
Globe

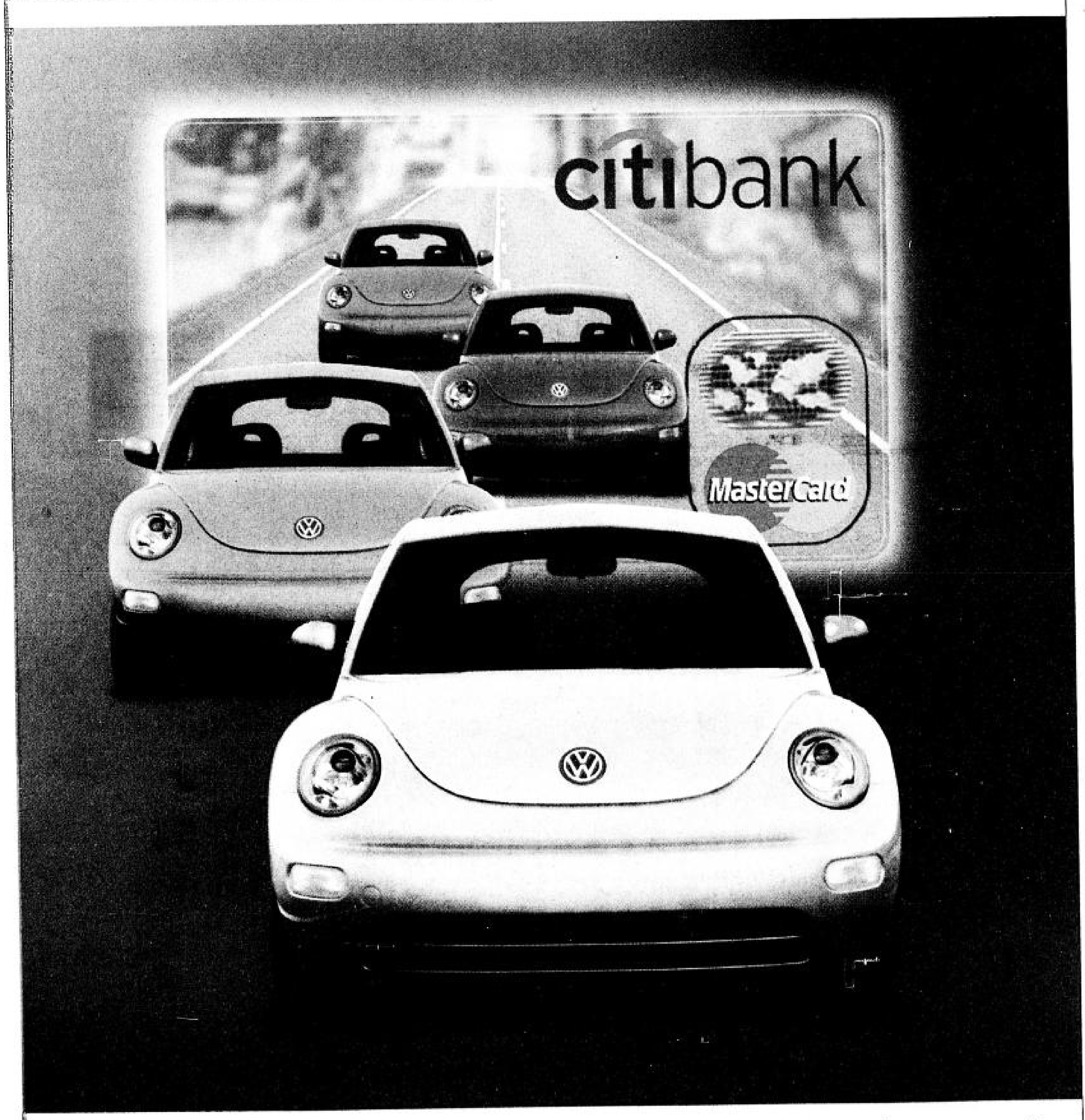
PANA REGULAR MEMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2002

1. ABBOTT LABORATORIES PHILS.
2. ABENSON, INC.
3. ABN AMRO SAVINGS BANK
4. ACE FOODS, INC.
5. ACS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
6. ADIDAS PHILIPPINES, INC.
7. ADP INDUSTRIES CORPORATION
8. AGUA VIDA SYSTEMS, INC.
9. AIRFREIGHT 2100, INC.
10. ALASKA MILK CORPORATION
11. ALCATEL PHILIPPINES, INC.
12. ALEN INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CORP.
13. ALLIED DOMECQ PHILIPPINES, INC.
14. ALTERNATIVE BEVERAGES CO., INC.
15. AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES
16. AMALGAMATED SPECIALTIES CORP.
17. AMERICAN EXPRESS INT'L., INC.
18. AMERICAN STANDARD
19. ANSON'S GROUP OF COMPANIES
20. ARCON GROUP HOLDINGS (DAYS HOTEL)
21. ASIA BREWERY , INC.
22. ASIAN HOSPITAL, INC.
23. ASIATRUST BANK
24. AVESCO MARKETING CORPORATION
25. AVON COSMETICS, INC.
26. AYALA CORPORATION
27. AYALA LAND, INC.
28. BAGUMBUHAY INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
29. BAN KEE TRADING, INC.
30. BANK OF COMMERCE
31. BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
32. BPI FAMILY BANK
33. BASIC CLOTHING INT'L. MFTG. (COLOURS)
34. BAYER PHILIPPINES, INC.
35. BENPRES HOLDINGS CORPORATION
36. BIG "E" FOODS CORPORATION
37. BOEHRINGER-INGELHEIM PHILIPPINES, INC.
38. BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB (PHIL.), INC.
39. BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO PHILIPPINES
40. BURGER MACHINE HOLDINGS CORPORATION
41. BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES PHILS., INC.
42. CABLE TECHNOLOGY ASIA CORP. (STAR GROUP LTD. PHILS.
43. CALIFORNIA MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
44. CANON MARKETING (PHILIPPINES) , INC.
45. CARGILL PHILS., INC. (FORMERLY AGRIBRANDS)
46. CASTROL PHILIPPINES
47. CEBU PACIFIC AIR
48. CENTURY CANNING CORPORATION
49. CHANEL MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
50. CHINA BANKING CORPORATION
51. CHOWKING FOOD CORPORATION
52. CITIBANK, N.A.
53. CITIBEDS
54. CLOROX INTERNATIONAL PHILS., INC.
55. CMG LIFE INSURANCE CO., INC
56. CMTC INTERNATIONAL MARKETING CORP.
57. COCA-COLA EXPORT CORPORATION
58. COLGATE-PALMOLIVE PHILS., INC.
59. COLLEGE ASSURANCE PLAN PHILS., INC.
60. COLLINS INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORP.
61. COLUMBIAN AUTOCAR CORPORATION
62. COMMONWEALTH FOODS, INC.
63. CONCEPCION CARRIER AIRCONDITIONING CO.
64. CONSOLIDATED DAIRY & FROZEN FOOD CORP.
65. CONTINENTAL AIRLINES
66. CROSSINGS DEPARTMENT STORE
67. DAIKIN-ALEN AIRCONDITIONING, INC.
68. DEL MONTE PHILIPPINES, INC.
69. DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS (PHILS.), CORP.
70. DIAMOND LABORATORIES , INC.
71. DIMSUM N' DUMPLINGS
72. DIRECT LINK INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

73. DIRECTORIES PHILS. CORPORATION
74. DKT PHILIPPINES, INC.
75. DUMEX PHILIPPINES, INC.
76. DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO MANILA
77. EASTERN TELECOMS PHILS., INC.
78. EAST WEST BANK
79. EASYCALL COMMUNICATIONS PHILS., INC.
80. EDSAMAIL PHILIPPINES
81. EINSCO CO., INC.
82. ELECTRO GROUP, INC.
83. EMPIRE EAST LAND HOLDINGS, INC.
84. ENCHANTED KINGDOM, INC.
85. ENERGIZER PHILIPPINES, INC.
86. ENERGY FOOD & DRINKS, INC.
87. EQUITABLE CARDNETWORK, INC.
88. EQUITABLE PCI BANK
89. ERICSSON TELECOMMUNICATIONS , INC.
90. EVER EMPORIUM
91. EVERGOOD UNLIMITED CORPORATION
92. EXCELLENCE APPLIANCE TECHNOLOGIES
93. EXPRESS TELECOMS CO., INC. (EXTELCOM)
94. EXXON MOBIL PETROLEUM & CHEMICAL HOLDINGS, INC.
95. FABRIANO S.P.A., INC.
96. FEDERAL HOMES, INC.
97. FESTIVAL SUPERMALL, INC.
98. FIL-PACIFIC APPAREL CORP. (JAG JEANS)
99. FILCON MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
100. FIRST CHOICE FOOD CORPORATION
101. FIRST e -BANK
102. FOCUS GLOBAL, INC.
103. FOOD INDUSTRIES, INC.
104. FORD MOTOR COMPANY PHILIPPINES, INC.
105. FORT BONIFACIO DEVT. CORPORATION
106. FORTUNE TOBACCO CORPORATION
107. FUJITSU PHILIPPINES, INC.
108. FRIGATE HOLDINGS MGNT. CORP. (RACKS)
109. GANDOUR PHILIPPINES, INC.
110. GENERAL GARMENTS CORPORATION
111. GENERAL MILLING CORPORATION
112. GENERAL MOTORS AUTOMOBILES PHILS., INC.
113. GERMED PHARMA CORPORATION
114. GETZ BROS. PHILIPPINES, INC.
115. GIFT GATE , INC.
116. GILLETTE PHILIPPINES, INC.
117. GLAXO SMITHKLINE
118. GLOBAL BRANDS
119. GLOBE TELECOM
120. GODIVA, INC.
121. GOLD'S GYM
122. GOLDEN ABC, INC. (PENSHOPPE)
123. GOLDEN DONUTS, INC. (DUNKIN DONUTS)
124. GOLDILOCKS BAKESHOPS, INC.
125. GOODYEAR PHILIPPINES, INC.
126. GREAT PACIFIC LIFE ASSURANCE CORP.
127. GREENWICH PIZZA CORPORATION
128. GTVL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, INC.
129. HAGEMEYER PHILIPPINES, INC.
130. HEALTHY OPTIONS
131. HOLIDAY INN MANILA
132. HOME DEVT. MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG)
133. HONDA PHILIPPINES, INC.
134. HYATT REGENCY MANILA
135. IBM PHILIPPINES, INC.
136. IMGAME.COM, INC.
137. INBISCO PHILIPPINES, INC.
138. INT'L. CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS (ICS)
139. INT'L. DISTILLERS PHILS., INC.
140. INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
141. INT'L. FAMILY FOOD SERVICES, INC. (SHAKEYS)
142. INT'L. PHARMACEUTICAL , INC.
143. ISLAND BISCUITS, INC.
144. JAMES HARDIE PHILIPPINES, INC.
145. JDH-PHILS. INC. ZUELLIG (FORMERLY ZUELLIG INCHCAPE)
146. JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE
147. JOHNSON & JOHNSON PHILIPPINES
148. JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION
149. KIMBERLY-CLARK PHILIPPINES, INC.
150. KODAK PHILIPPINES LTD.
151. KOLIN PHILIPPINES INT'L., INC.
152. KRAFT FOODS PHILIPPINES, INC.
153. LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
154. LA TONDENA DISTILLERS, INC.
155. LESLIE CORPORATION
156. LEVI STRAUSS PHILIPPINES, INC. II
157. LIBERTY COMMODITIES CORPORATION
158. LINEA ITALIA GROUP
159. LKG INVESTMENT & FINANCE CORP.(LKG GROUP)
160. LOYOLA PLANS, INC.
161. LUCERNE JEWELERS
162. LYRIC PIANO & ORGAN CORPORATION
163. MACONDRAY & CO., INC.
164. MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA
165. MANILA MIDTOWN HOTELS & LAND CORP.
166. MANUELA CORPORATION
167. MARIE-FRANCE BODYLINE INT'L., INC.
168. MCDONALDS PHILIPPINES
169. MEGA FISHING CORPORATION
170. MERCURY DRUG CORPORATION
171. METCHEM INDUSTRIAL , INC.
172. METRO PHARMA PHILIPPINES , INC.
173. METROBANK CARD CORPORATION

100

It's not just a Credit Card



It's the chance to win any of 4 New Beetles with PayLite.

- Every P3,000 charged to PayLite in a single transaction entitles you to one raffle number
- All other retail purchases can be accumulated and converted to PayLite at a minimum of P3,000
- PayLite your purchases in 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 easy monthly installments
- Pay low interest rates on your PayLite purchases
- Raffle Draw Dates are on:
  - 1st Draw - November 22, 2002
  - 2nd Draw - December 13, 2002
  - 3rd Draw - January 19, 2003
  - 4th Draw - March 23, 2003

Charge your transactions to PayLite now and you can be one of the Fab Four to take home a New VW Beetle!

Promo period is from September 15, 2002 to February 15, 2003.
See posters for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3568, Series of 2002

Call CitiPhone at 995-9999 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph

PayLite beetlemania

citibank

174. METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY 175. MGME
MARKETING CORPORATION 176. MILADAY GROUP OF COM-
PANIES 177. MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES CORP. 178.
MONDE DENMARK.NISSIN BISCUIT CORP. 179. MONTEREY
FOODS CORPORATION 180. MOTOROLA COMMUNICATIONS
PHILS., INC.
181. MSI-DIGILAND (PHILS.), INC.
182. MYRA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
183. NATIONAL BOOKSTORE, INC.
184. NATIONAL PANASONIC SALES PHILS. (DIV. OF MEPCO)
185. NESTLE' PHILIPPINES, INC.
186. NEWTRENDS INT'L. CORPORATION
187. NEW ZEALAND MILK PRODUCTS, PHILS., INC.
188. NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS PHILS., INC.
189. NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF THE PHILS.
190. NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC.
191. NOKIA PHILIPPINES, INC.
192. NOVARTIS CONSUMER HEALTH PHILS., INC.
193. NUTRIASIA
194. ORIENTAL & MOTOLITE CORPORATION
195. OTT LOUIE PHILS., INC.
196. PACIFIC PLANS, INC.
197. PASCUAL LABORATORIES, INC.
198. PEPSICO, INC. (PHIL. BRANCH)
199. PERFETTI VAN MELLE (PHILS.), INC.
200. PERFUMERIA ESPAÑOLA CORPORATION
201. PETRON CORPORATION
202. PFIZER, INC.
203. PHILAM PLANS, INC.
204. PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES, INC.
205. PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, INC.
206. PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE INSURANCE CORP.
207. PHILIPPINE DAIRY PRODUCTS CORP.
208. PHILIPPINE FUJI XEROX
209. PHIL.LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANY
210. PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK
211. PHILIPPINE PIZZA, INC.
212. PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
213. PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORPORATION
214. PHILIPS CONSUMER ELECTRONICS
215. PHILUSA CORPORATION
216. PHOTOKINA MARKETING CORPORATION
217. PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORP.
218. PLANTERS DEVELOPMENT BANK
219. PROCTER & GAMBLE DISTRIBUTING PHILS., INC.
220. PROGRESSIVE DEVT. CORP. (ARANETA GROUP)
221. PRU LIFE INSURANCE OF U.K.
222. PUNTA BALUARTE RESORT
223. QUAKER OATS ASIA, INC. (PHIL. BRANCH)
224. QUANTUM FOODS, INC. (DOLE)
225. RECKITT BENCKISER (PHILS.), INC.
226. REGENT FOOD CORPORATION
227. REPUBLIC BISCUIT CORP. (REBISCO GROUP)
228. REPUBLIC CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, INC.
229. REYNOLDS TRADING & MARKETING CORP.
230. RICHWELL TRADING CORPORATION
231. RICOH (PHILIPPINES), INC.
232. RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION
233. ROBINSONS , INC. (ROBINSONS DEPT. STORE)
234. ROGEMSON ENTERPRISES (The Rogemson Co.)
235. RUSTAN MARKETING CORPORATION
236. SALEM OCEANIC INDUSTRIES CORP.
237. SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS PHILS., CORP.
238. SAN MIGUEL BREWING GROUP
239. SAN MIGUEL FOODS, INC.
240. SANOFI -SYNTHELABO PHILIPPINES
241. SANYO (PHILS.), INC.
242. SARA LEE PHILIPPINES, INC.
243. SCHERING-PLOUGH CORPORATION
244. SCA HYGIENCE PRODUCTS CORPORATION
245. S.C. JOHNSON & SON, INC.
246. SECURITY BANK CORPORATION
247. SECURITY DINERS INTERNATIONAL CORP.
248. SHANGRI-LA PLAZA CORPORATION
249. SHARP (PHILS.), CORP.
250. SHOPPING CENTER MANAGEMENT CORP. (SCMC)
251. SIAM MARIWASA TOTO, INC.
252. SIEMENS , INC.
253. SLIMMERS WORLD INTERNATIONAL
254. SM, INC.
255. SMART COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
256. SMARTY TOYS CORPORATION
257. SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
258. SOLID DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
259. SONY PHILIPPINES, INC.
260. SPLASH CORPORATION
261. STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL
262. STANDARD CHARTERED BANK
263. STERLING PAPER PRODUCTS ENT., INC.
264. STIEFEL PHILIPPINES, INC.
265. SUGARLAND BEVERAGE CORP.
266. SUNLIFE ASSURANCE CO. OF CANADA
267. SUPER MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
268. SUY SING COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
269. SUYEN CORPORATION
270. SWEDISH MATCH PHILIPPINES, INC.
271. SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (STI)
272. SYSU INTERNATIONAL , INC.
273. TAISHO PHARMA (PHILS.) INC.
274. THE ANDRESONS GROUP, INC.
275. THE BOOTS CO. (PHILS.) INC.
276. THE HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA
277. THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORP.
278. THE INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE CO., LTD.
279. THE LANDMARK CORPORATION
280. THE PENINSULA MANILA
281. THE PHIL. AMERICAN LIFE AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY (PHILAMLIFE)
282. THE PUREFOODS -HORMEL COMPANY
283. THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA
284. TOTAL FINAELF PHILIPPINES CORP.
285. TOURIST TRADE & TRAVEL CORPORATION
286. TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, CORP.
287. TRANSUNION CORP. (FEDERAL ELECTRIC)
288. TRI-UNION INTERNATIONAL CORP. (CO.B)
289. TRICOM DYNAMICS, INC.
290. TUPPERWARE PHILIPPINES
291. TVP DENTAL BRUSH CORPORATION
292. T.W. AND COMPANY (S &T ENTERPRISES)
293. UNI-AIR PHILIPPINES, INC.
294. UNILAB NUTRITIONALS (FORMERLY PHIL. HEALTH)
295. UNILEVER PHILIPPINES,(PRC) INC.
296. UNION AJINOMOTO PHILIPPINES
297. UNION BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
298. UNITED INT'L. PICTURES, INC.
299. UNITED LABORATORIES, INC. (UNILAB)
300. UNITED OVERSEAS BANK PHILIPPINES
301. UNI-TRADE MERCHANDISING
302. UNIVERSAL ROBINA CORPORATION
303. UNIVET AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, INC.
304. VBP GROUP OF COMPANIES
305. VIBELLE MFTG. CORP. & ORIANA MFTG. CO., INC.
306. VIVA ENTERTAINMENT GROUP
307. WARREN MANUFACTURING CORP.
308. WENPHIL CORPORATION (WENDY'S)
309. WESTERN MARKETING CORPORATION
310. WILLIAM , GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC.
311. WIDE WIDE WORLD EXPRESS CORP.
312. WRIGLEY PHILIPPINES, INC.
313. WYETH CONSUMER HEALTHCARE
314. WYETH PHILIPPINES, INC.
315. YAKULT PHILIPPINES, INC.
316. ZENCO SALES, INC.
317. ZEST-O CORPORATION (SEMEXCO)

AFFILIATE MEMBERS (UNDER PROBATIONARY)

1. BELO MEDICAL GROUP
2. CADBURY CONFECTIONARY PHILIPPINE BRANCH
3. CALTEX PHILIPPINES, INC.
4. CAMPBELL SOUP ASIA LIMITED
5. CATHAY BUILDER'S CENTER, INC.
6. COLUMBIA PICTURES INDUSTRIES, INC.
7. COMPAQ COMPUTER PHILIPPINES
8. DAVID SALONS, INC.
9. FIRST ASIA MOBILE, INC.
10. FOODSPHERE, INC.
11. GARDENIA BAKERIES (PHILS.), INC.
12. HERBCARE CORPORATION
13. HOLLYWOOD MARKETING
14. HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES, INC.
15. INFORMATICS HOLDINGS PHILS., INC.
16. INTEL MICROELECTRONICS
17. JARDINE DAVIES, INC. (AGCHEM)
18. J -SING BROS., INC.
19. LG COLLINS ELECTRONICS MANILA
20. MACLIN ELECTRONICS, INC.
21. MASTERCARD INT'L. PHILS., INC.
22. MAVERICK FILMS
23. MEGA PHILIPPINES
24. MINDGATE SYSTEMS, INC.
25. MONDEX PHILIPPINES, INC.
26. NIKE PHILIPPINES, INC.
27. ORTIGAS & COMPANY , LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
28. 7RD REALTY , INC.
29. RIVERS OF LIFE PROPERTY & DEVT. CORP.
30. TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC.
31. UNIVERSAL MOTORS CORPORATION
32. VIRGINIA FOOD, INC.

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

NOKIA
Multimedia message
Wanna go cruising?
Options
Back

Shoot and send snapshots with the built-in digital camera of the new Nokia 7650.

If you can see it, you can shoot and send it. Because the new Nokia 7650 has a built-in digital camera that enables you to take images as you experience them. With your saved images, you can add text and sound to create the most exciting multi-media messages. Just capture, create and send with the new Nokia 7650.

• Built-in digital camera--allows you to take, store and send pictures • Icon-based Color Display with a 5-way Joystick for easy navigation • Send pictures, text and sound files via Multi-media Messaging Service (MMS) • Personal Information Management (PIM) for personal efficiency • Wireless connectivity--Bluetooth, Infrared and WAP over GPRS • Symbian Operating System with support for MIDP Java applications

*Phone is not waterproof. Please read owner's guide for more information.

www.nokia-asia.com

NOKIA 7650

The phone with a digital camera.

For assurance of quality, get the Nokia 7650 only at Authorized Nokia Dealers. For inquiries, email us at write_nokia@nokia.com

Pana TRUTH IN ADVERTISING 44 YEARS

IN CELEBRATION of September Advertisers Month under Presidential Proclamation No. 177 dated Sept. 7, 1999, the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) mounts an exhibit at the Shangri-La Mall ongoing from Sept. 23 to 29, which features award-winning advertisements, top 44 advertisers, and Pana Values Awards winners. Shown at the ribbon cutting ceremony, which signaled the formal opening, were (from left) Pana board secretary Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva Inc., AdBoard chair Susan Dimacali of McCann-Erickson, Pana president Carminia B. Rodriguez of Citibank NA, KBP chair Cerge Remonde of RPN-9, Pana treasurer Raul S. Alvarez of PLDT, Pana director Fortunato D. Babasa of The Andresons Group and Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon.

AT THE PANA Cocktails honoring the top advertisers and at the launch of the 'Strat Ur Stuff' Marketing Summit held recently at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Pana president Carminia B. Rodriguez poses with Inquirer VP for advertising Felipe R. Olarte (center) and SVP for sales and marketing Renato R. Reinoso. 'Strat Ur Stuff' will be staged from Nov. 20 to 22. For inquiries and reservations, call Pana and look for Susan Yu or Lyn Gameng at 890-2989 to 91 or 899-5671/91.

'Strat Ur Stuff'

PANA's culminating event for 2002 aims to help businesses hit it big with their consumers

"STRAT Ur Stuff" is a strategic Marketing Summit to be staged by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) from Nov. 20 to 22. Today, more than ever, companies should review their strategic marketing tools to gain a competitive advantage. Your "stuff" like your company and your products, product lines, product mixes, and your services should be strategized properly, uniquely, and wittingly enough following the science and art of strategic marketing. Extrapolations in the past are long enough. Companies should focus on the market environment facing the firm. The enhancement of research and development could represent an adjustment in strategic capability.

Strategic marketing emphasizes not only projections but also an in-depth understanding of the market environment, particularly competitors and customers. The goal is not only to gain insight into current conditions but also to be able to anticipate changes that have strategic implications. It is in this very competitive scenario that we invite you to attend the Strategic Marketing Summit of Pana so that you can "Strat Ur Stuff."

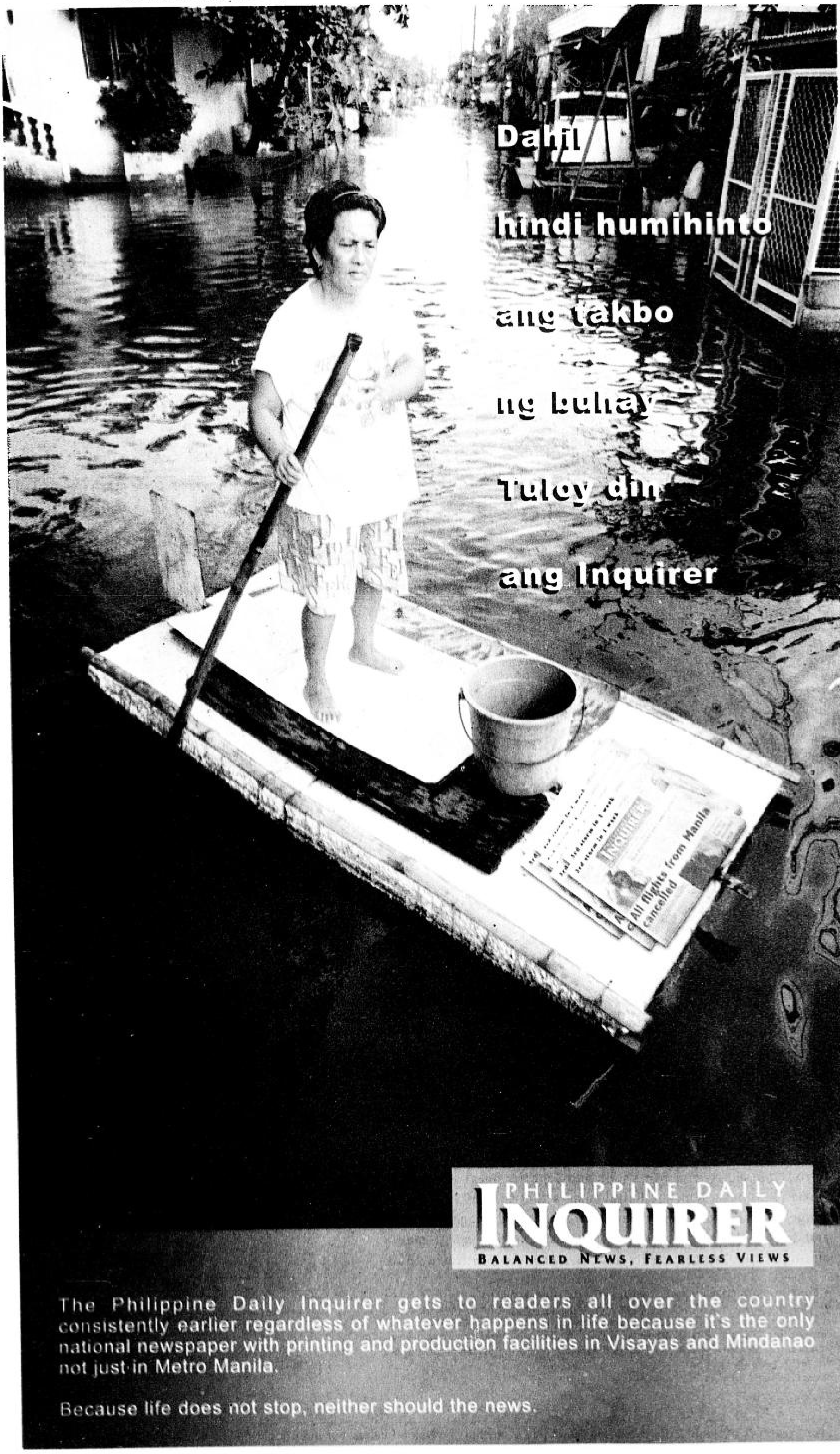
Gain new insights on the following topics: the essence of the brand; how a CEO views strategic marketing; the ad agency as a strategist: developing research, product, retail, customer service, and IMC plans, e-marketing, financial planning, and new trends and practices in strategic marketing. Distinguished speakers will come from the various sectors of the marketing industry.

Strat Ur Stuff is inviting participants from manufacturing concerns, service business establishments, retail stores, advertising and related marketing communications agencies, media companies, research, suppliers and other strategic stakeholders. The summit likewise welcomes other key members of the corporate planning team like people from finance, production and operations, and professors and students from the academe.

As an incentive to all, Pana is announcing pre-launch rates at only P5,000 if you register and pay your dues from June 17 to June 28. The succeeding rates are: Early Bird Rate – July 1 to Sept. 30--P6,000; Regular Rate – Oct. 1 to Nov. 19--P7,000; On Site Rate – Nov. 20 to 22--P7,500. The Academe Rate is P3,000.

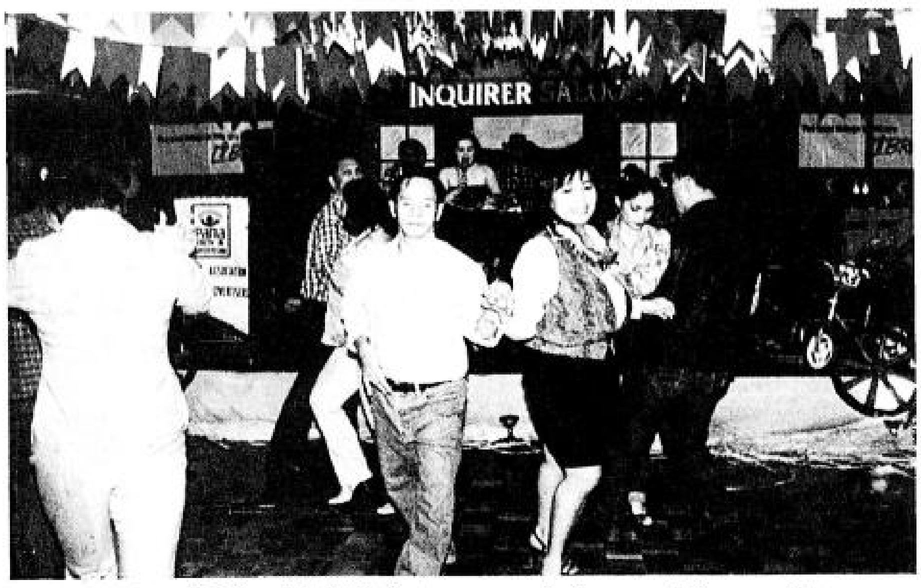
Strat Ur Stuff and be counted as an up-to-date and innovative strategist. Register now. For inquiries and reservations, call Pana and look for Susan Yu or Lyn Gameng at 890-2989 to 91 or 899-5671/91.

Strategic marketing emphasizes not only projections but also an in-depth understanding of the market environment, particularly competitors and customers

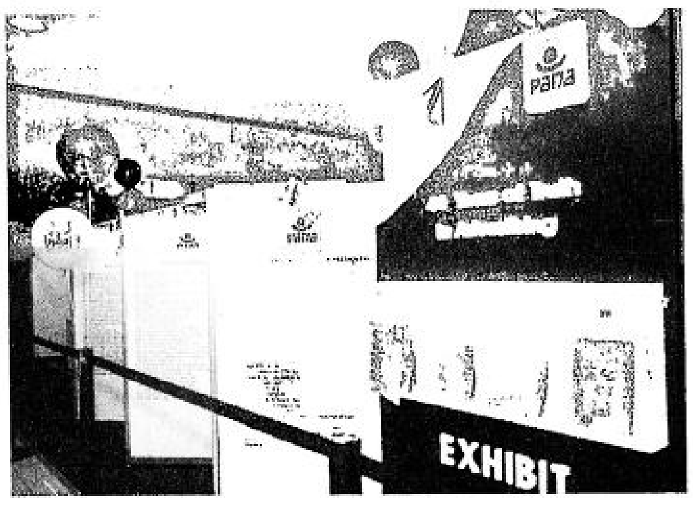

Dahil
hindi humihinto
ang takbo
ng buhay
Tuloy din
ang Inquirer
INQUIRER
All flights from Manila cancelled
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The Philippine Daily Inquirer gets to readers all over the country consistently earlier regardless of whatever happens in life because it's the only national newspaper with printing and production facilities in Visayas and Mindanao not just in Metro Manila.

Because life does not stop, neither should the news.



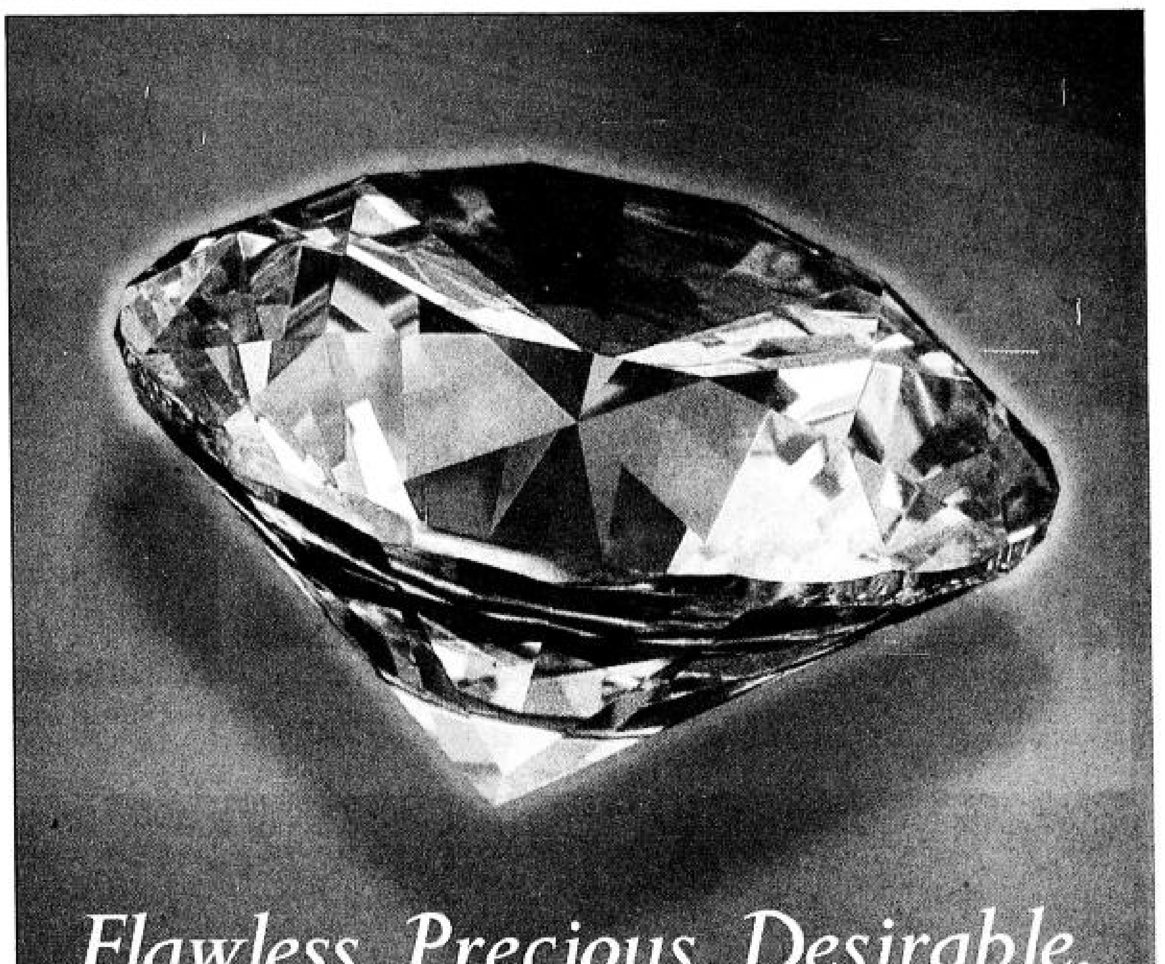
THE PANA Annual Fellowship Night fosters camaraderie amongst Pana members, media, and the allied organizations of the advertising industry.



IN CELEBRATION of September Advertisers Month and 44th anniversary, an exhibit was mounted at Shangri-La Mall which featured award-winning advertisements, top advertisers and the 44 presidents of Pana.

Philippine Assoc

THE ANNUAL Pana Bingo Social is a fund-raising activity for the different socio-civic projects of the Association, particularly for the Pamaskong Alay sa mga Kapus-Palad Year 8. Shown is Michaelangelo Olarte, son of Inquirer VP for advertising Felipe R. Olarte. handing over the prize to the event's second place winner.



Flawless. Precious. Desirable.

And it could even be yours.

DIAMOND BE MINE

If you want to know how this diamond will look on your finger, you can cut out this picture and put it against your hand.

Or you can cut out the Diamond Be Mine entry form, answer the questions pertaining to some of the ads you can find in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine and send it to us for a chance to be one of our 27 weekly winners who would vie for one round brilliant cut diamond set on a 14 karat white gold solitaire ring in our grand draw on November 15, 2002.

To join the promo, check out the Sunday Inquirer Magazine this Sunday.

Per DTI-NCR permit # 3338, series of 2002.

sunday INQUIRER magazine GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

OCAMPO'S FINE JEWELLERY SINCE 1926 · WAVE 89.1 · FRIDAY'S · Hallmark

Second of Six Monthly Millionaires

He took the PSBank MegaMillion Challenge

Now, he's a millionaire!

MANUEL TORRES DE JESUS
Buendia Branch

PSBank MegaMillion Challenge
MANUEL TORRES DE JESUS
1,000,000
PSBank

100 winners of P1,000 each

- Canas, Arlene C.
- Pantaleon, Rizza and/or Antonette
- Metro CITI Media Services
- Valerio, Patricia Gomez
- Valenzuela, Felix Asetre
- Occidental, William A.
- Robles, Catherine A.
- Salas, Ruperto B.
- Ebora, Feliculo U.
- Eastern Steel Fabricators Phils.
- Garin, Dante or Arioo
- Mesias, Christopher E.
- Vintage Manna Mfg., Corp
- Colegio San Antonio
- Laguna Beef, Inc.
- Lee, Clarita V.
- Choc Choc, Lily
- Ong, Yee Sun
- Galan, Enrique T.
- Torres, Reynaldo L. and or Ma. Divina B. and or Ramon P.
- Intercontinental Express Freight, Inc.
- Bernardo, Leonides C.
- Estagle, Alfredo Cubinar
- Perez, Bernabe C.
- Goodwill Industries of Cebu, Inc.
- Yap, Merlinda
- Ducay, Avelina V.
- Dela Cruz, Lilia and/or Isidro
- Duero, Angelina T.
- Cruz, Jennifer Arquiza
- Honda MegaMotors Corp. Steel
- Ng, Beverly Joy Chi
- Limsui, Grace Tan
- Ong, Luis Jose Maria Dee
- Sy, Napoleon Ang
- Ilano, Araceli
- Harmony General Mdsg. Co.
- Pangilinan, Aurora I.
- Uychingco, Jose D. and/or Isabel L.
- Cornejo, Arthur P.
- Teppang, Julieta I.
- Castro, Balagias M.
- Zinampan, Florencia N.
- Jacinto, Gregorio C.
- Jewel Lingerie
- Robles, Carlito or de Torres, Rufo
- Alver Trading Center
- Oracion, Alliano Msgr.
- Raquel, Reynaldo or Rosita or Recilda
- Belmores, Tita
- Alpha Insurance and Surety Corp.
- Ignacio, Leonora G.
- Bayan Gas Corp.
- Caluag, Lucia R.
- Clavio, Cynthia C. and/or Daniel
- Dayao, Fernando
- Oliveros, Leonila
- Digmon, Melanie
- Sarabia, Araceli S.
- St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church
- Soriano, Luciano E. or Lopez, Gilbert S.
- Alpen Development Associates Inc.
- Ferrer, Ma. Rosalie Asuncion Consunji or Patric Vincent Vergara
- Manansala, Leonida Queja
- Cervantes, Orlando or Teresita L.
- Limpingco, Antonio U.
- Ceriola, Ronald Cantorio
- Alfonso, Pablo J.
- Chua, Victoria
- Cruz, Isabelita G.
- Dela Cruz, Araceli Osa
- DR GA Picache Development Corp.
- Lawi, Omairah A.
- Salamilad, Pacifico
- Mindana, Rozal T.
- Lozada, Francisco G.
- Dela Torre, Joselito David
- Balac, Crisostomo P.
- Dizon, Rey C.
- Aquino, Leonardo R.
- Janolino, Efren
- Maranan, Nicanor F.
- Quiambao, Lourdes G.
- Dura Wheel Recapping Center
- Drilon, Annabel F.
- Ramos, Teresita
- Rivas, Grace H.
- Kho, Violeta
- Lao, Dinia
- Ong, Alfonso
- Sotto, Inocencio
- Sy, Lulu
- Inumerable, Cherry B.
- Tarlac Electric Inc.
- Magbuhos, Juanito D.
- Padua, Jose B.
- Ables, Amher Abalon
- Cruz, Josefina
- Santiago, Andrew and Ew and Ew and E.

10 winners of P10,000 each

- Estigoy, Helen A.
- Salapong, Francisco S. Jr.
- Go, William or Bernadette S.
- Nouveau Global Services Corp.
- San Jose, Marissa P.
- Aboitiz Construction Group, Inc.
- Empasis, Richard A.
- Cheu, David T.
- Amio, Vicente
- Villapando, Dominador

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

Working harder for you.

For inquiries please visit any PSBank branch nearest you or
PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City
Tel. 885-8208 connecting all units

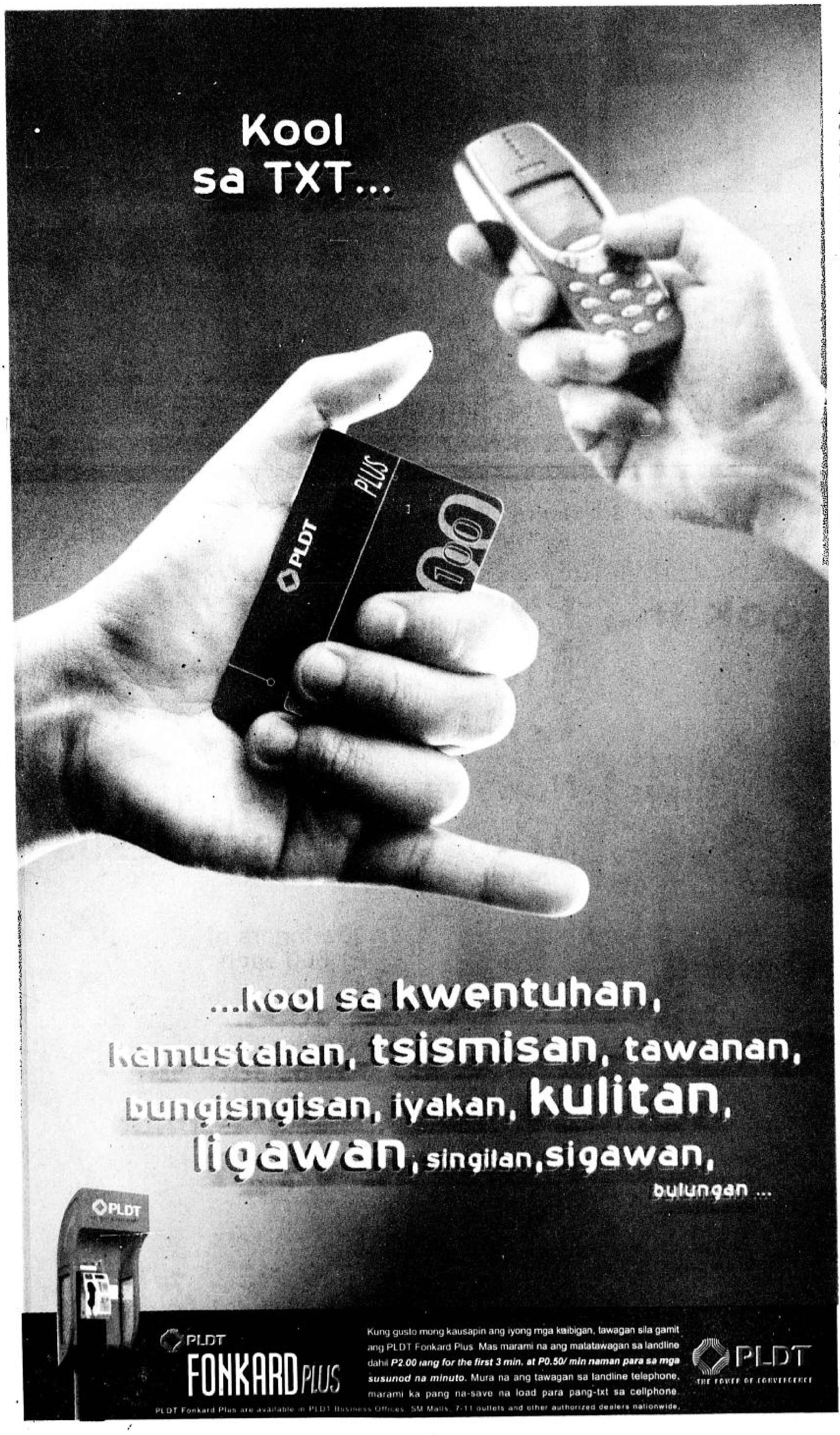
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2608 Series of 2002

Member Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposit insured up to P100,000.00 BancNet

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Journalism that moves us

THE PANA Sports Committee conducts annual golf tournaments.

THE PANA Cocktails at the Westin Philippine Plaza which honored the top advertisers.



Kung gusto mong kausapin ang iyong mga kaibigan, tawagan sila gamit ang PLDT Fonkard Plus. Mas marami na ang matatawagan sa landline dahil ***P2.00 lang for the first 3 min. at P0.50/ min naman para sa mga susunod na minuto.*** Mura na ang tawagan sa landline telephone, marami ka pang na-save na load para pang-txt sa cellphone.

PLDT Fonkard Plus are available in PLDT Business Offices, SM Malls, 7-11 outlets and other authorized dealers nationwide.

Major Pana achievements

- THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers spearheaded the establishment of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and the Audit Council for print media. A former Pana president as the first elected chair was instrumental in successfully steering the two organizations through the initial years.
- Pana resolved conflicts on ethical issues among member advertisers through its ethics committee. It was also instrumental in the removal and/or revision of a number of controversial and objectionable ads.
- It was the first organization in the industry to adopt the International Code of Advertising Practice and to enforce such code among its members. It undertook truth-in-advertising campaigns among its members.
- Pana represented advertisers' and advertising's interests before executive and legislative bodies regarding proposed measures and rules and regulations affecting advertising. It opposed a number of unfavorable proposed legislations and regulations, and at the same time assisted in formulating and drafting guidelines bearing on advertising, such as the sales promotions rules being used by the Department of Trade and Industry.
- It participated in and represented the advertisers in the drafting of rules and regulations on advertising practice worked out by the government and the industry (for a period of one year of weekly meetings).
- It negotiated and worked out acceptable guidelines and standards of business relationships with other sectors and interests in the industry represented by 4As (then APAA and Lapis), KBP, Primo, and Asap.
- It successfully opposed moves to increase agency commissions.
- It represented advertisers' interests on such important issues as increase in media rates, protection period for rate announcement and other business practices affecting advertisers.
- It participated in the drafting of existing guidelines for broadcast advertising.
- Pana sponsored scholarship programs workshops/seminars, and assisted educational institutions in the development of curriculum concerning advertising.
- It negotiated rate protection, preferential rates, and other concessions from media for Pana member advertisers.
- The presence of Pana in itself has generally served as a deterrent against unreasonable media rate increases and practices.
- In April 1987, Pana supported the position taken by five of its member companies withdrawing advertising support from a TV "showbiz" talk show. Pana's move for more wholesome programming was widely applauded by industry and consumer groups.

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